THE AMF RIFLEMAN

25 CENTS

MAY 1947

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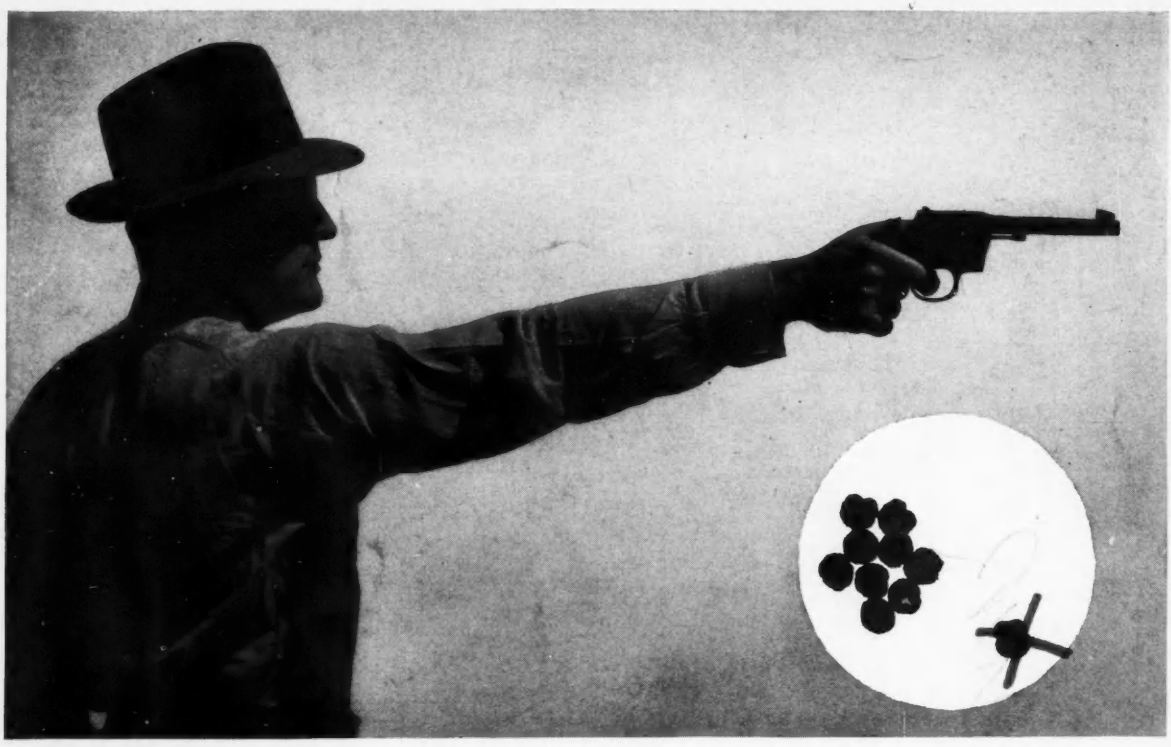
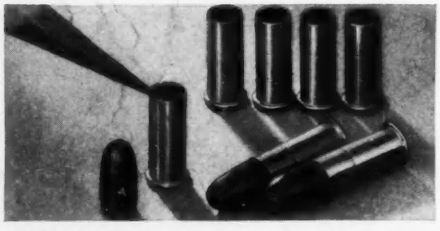


KNOCKOUT FOR "FLYERS." Samples from regular production of Peters match cartridges are stored in their packages for weeks under conditions of tropical heat and humidity, then tested for dependable performance.



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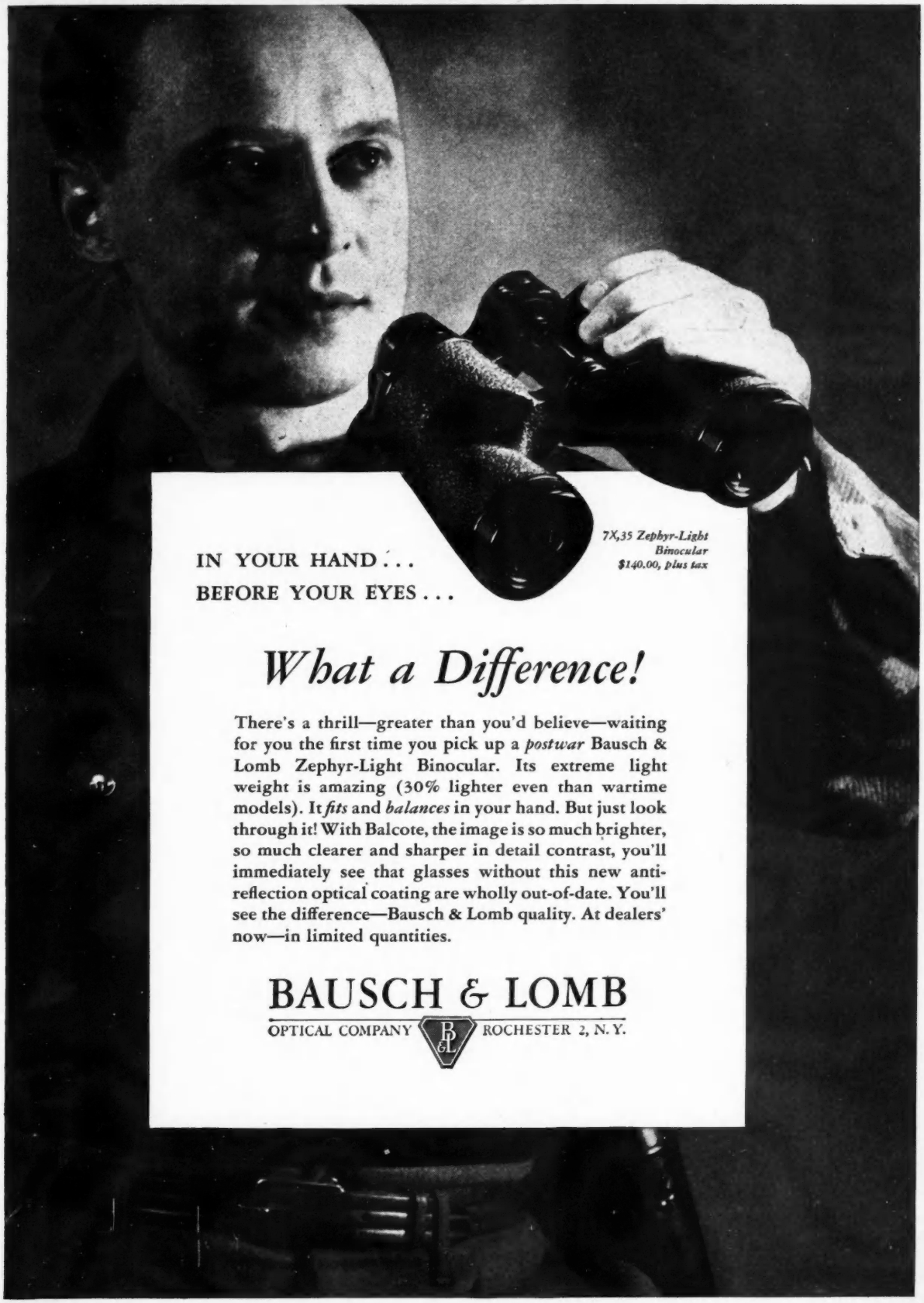

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RIFLEMAN WORDS

Each month this "lexicon for shooters" is devoted to a few words peculiar to the shooting game which may be puzzling to the newcomer. All words defined here are used in a current article.

BACKLASH—In fishing terminology, backlash is a birdnest of snarled line around an unruly reel, but in the shooting game it is the rearward travel of a trigger after the sear has been disengaged, i. e., after the shot has been fired. Also any lost motion of the set screw in adjusting sights, etc.

BREECH—In general, that part of a firearm to the rear of the chamber.

BREECHLOADER—A term used to distinguish firearms which are loaded from the breech directly into the chamber from those which are loaded from the muzzle.

BRIDGE MOUNT—A bridge-type telescope mount is one that spans the loading port in the receiver of a bolt-action rifle.

CARBINE—A short, light shoulder weapon formerly carried by the cavalry but now used by all branches of the military service.

CONSTANT ZERO—Term used to describe a rifle, ammunition, sight, or a combination of all three, which will perform from day to day without the point of impact of the bullets on a target changing in relation to the point of aim.

CYLINDER—A machined, round block of steel containing the multiple chambers of revolvers and some antique rifles.

DRIFT—The deviation to the right or left of the line of bore of the bullet in flight. Drift is the result of gyroscopic action brought about by the spinning bullet. The right-hand twist found in most modern American-made rifles causes drift to the right.

FLASH HIDER—A cylindrical or cone-shaped attachment on the end of a barrel for cooling the powder gases and hiding the flash of the burning gases. Flash hiders may be effective enough to hide as much as 95 percent of the flash.

FLAT TRAJECTORY—A line of bullet flight which does not have the high arch produced by low-velocity loads. It has less drop over a given range than projectiles having a highly curved trajectory.

HOMOGENEOUS ARMOR PLATE—A steel plate which is the same composition or structure throughout. Unlike face-hardened armor plate.

IRON SIGHTS—Open, receiver, "peep" aperture, or tube sights, differentiated from telescopic sights possessing optical units.

M1 RIFLE—The U. S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M1; a gas-operated, clip-loaded, air-cooled, semiautomatic rifle. It is the official U. S. military rifle, known to the public at large as the Garand.

MUSKET—A name formerly used to classify smoothbore shoulder weapons carried by the infantry.

RING TRIGGER—A trigger in the form of a ring into which the trigger finger is inserted to fire the weapon.

S. A. E.—Number for steel. Number designating the ingredients in steel as standardized by the Society of Automotive Engineers, Inc.

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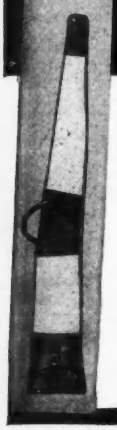
Custom-made by NICHOLS



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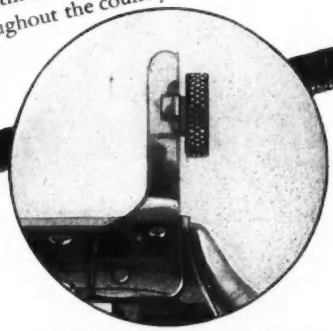

Rear Peep Sight—military-target-shooting type—adjusts for elevation. Front sight adjusts for windage. Actual conditions of target rifle shooting are reproduced.

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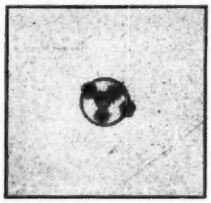
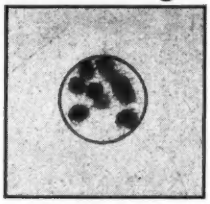
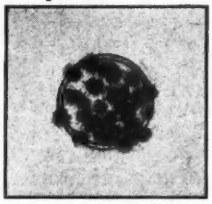


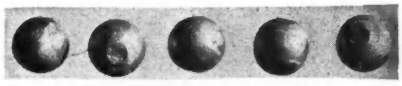
5-shot group at 25 feet. ¼ inch spread. Corresponds to a 3 inch group at 100 yards. Here is true rifle accuracy right in your own home.



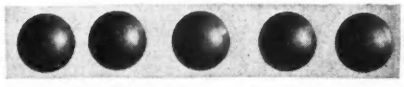
10-shot group at 25 feet. ½ inch spread. All firing by one operator, using sights, firing from bench rest, with elbow and forearm support.



40-shot group at 25 feet. Vertical spread: ½ inch. Horizontal: 9/16 inch. Here's *proof* this new gun gives you serious, indoor target practice.



Ordinary B-B shot (new, never used)



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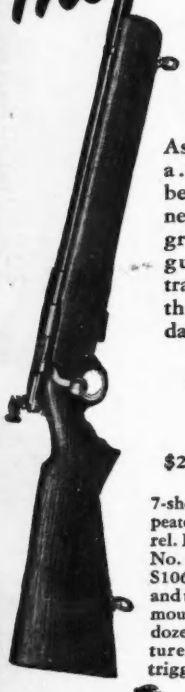

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Incidentally . . .

The final mailing of RIFLEMAN questionnaires has gone out, and returns are already reaching us from West Coast states, to complete our nationwide survey of the NRA . . . who our members are, what they want in THE RIFLEMAN, why they joined, how long ago, what their interests are . . . to give us a real chance to serve them better than ever before. As might be expected, tabulations are still incomplete. That 65 per cent return of completed questionnaires . . . nearly 20,000 of 'em . . . adds up to about 300,000 votes to be tabulated and analyzed for circulation here in THE RIFLEMAN editorial offices. Like radio, with its Hooper ratings, and Dr. Gallup's public opinion polls, we'll be able to refer to concrete facts, voicing the opinions of a large cross-section of NRA members, in planning future issues of the magazine.

☆ ☆ ☆

Along with the questions aimed at finding out what members want to read about in THE RIFLEMAN, there was another series, designed to tell us *who* the members are . . . how long they've been with us, why they joined, where they live. Already, with a preliminary tabulation, based on a percentage of returns, we're learning some interesting things about Mr. Average NRA Member. For instance, he's a city dweller, by more than two to one over the rural shooting enthusiast. As you might expect, easterners—New York, Pennsylvania, Jersey, and neighboring states—show up with the highest percentage of urban memberships.

Probably the most satisfying question, for us here in RIFLEMAN editorial offices at least, was that which asked, "Why did you join the NRA?" We have often wondered, ourselves, whether it was THE RIFLEMAN, the NRA or, as we've been told so many times, the chance to buy a surplus Army rifle. That rifle buying theory is all wet, according to the 55 per cent of our members who say they joined the NRA to get THE RIFLEMAN. Eighteen per cent wanted rifles, 14 joined as a result of rifle and pistol club membership, and that remaining 13 per cent came in for all sorts of reasons . . . mainly through an interest in the NRA's continuing fight to prevent the passage of ill-advised antigun laws.

We asked, too, about length of NRA membership. Over 40 per cent have been members for less than a year, which strengthens our feeling that we have to repeat a lot of basic things for all of these newcomers. Only 24 per cent fall into the one- to five-year bracket, while 36 per cent . . . the solid, year-after-year backbone of the NRA . . . have been with us for more than five years. Eighty-two per cent, we find, are annual members. There's a two per cent group paying "installments" as conditional life members, and 14 per cent already have their membership taken care of for good as life members. The remaining two per cent are junior subscribers. A final question, club member or not, was answered in the affirmative by 30 per cent. That means a majority, 70 per cent, are "unorganized" shooters . . . not banded together as a club and, for the most part, not interested in tournament shooting.

Altogether, the results of our questionnaire take the guesswork out of editing THE RIFLEMAN. We know, now, who you are, why you're getting THE RIFLEMAN, and what you want to see in every issue. The rest is up to us.

☆ ☆ ☆

Next month we're headlining a story of one of the Grand Old Men of the shooting game—A. O. Niedner—written by two men who worked with him, and know him intimately. There will also be a detailed story on converting the Garand M1 to a sporter . . . for those lucky few who bought one during the limited time they were legally sold in the Pacific. Even though there are not many available to home remodelers, and no likelihood of near future government sales, we think you'll be interested in the way author Ludwig Olson figured out a difficult home gunsmithing problem.—J. S.

COVER

The dream of every arms collector . . . a Paterson big pistol, in mint condition. This one, for the record, is the Paterson deposited in the U. S. patent office by Samuel Colt in order to protect his patent on the first practical revolving firearm. The Kodachrome was made by Rifleman Editor John Scofield at the Smithsonian Institution, where the gun is now preserved. Three 3200 K. lights were used with Type B Kodachrome, at one second f.8, with a 4 x 5 Speed Graphic.

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FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, GIVE BOTH NEW AND OLD ADDRESS AS THE LATTER APPEARS ON ADDRESS LABEL.

The AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

VOLUME 95 NUMBER 5

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SOUTH BEND Lathes

Come Summer!

THE month of May ushers in the outdoor shooting season for most Americans. True, there are those fortunate citizens in Florida, southern California, and Arizona who shoot outdoors right on through the winter months (or so the Chamber of Commerce says) but for all practical purposes the 1947 outdoor season is just getting under way. It will not be a season to be lightly disregarded or to be merely taken in stride in prewar style. During the next five months much of the work will be done, or left undone, which will make or break the rifle and pistol shooting game during the next decade.

Why?

BECAUSE hundreds of local ranges went to pot during the war years. Live-wire club officers were away from home or too busy to do all the work of keeping the club going. Materials were hard to get for normal repair purposes. Labor to maintain firing points and target butts was unobtainable. THESE RANGES ARE GOING TO BE REBUILT THIS SUMMER OR THESE PREWAR CLUBS ARE GOING TO PASS OUT OF THE GAME.

BECAUSE there are this spring tens of thousands of young men interested in the possibilities of organized target shooting as a means of recreation and sport. THESE MEN ARE GOING TO BE PROVIDED WITH A GOOD PLACE TO SHOOT AND A GOOD, INTERESTING SHOOTING PROGRAM THIS SUMMER OR THEY ARE GOING TO BE PERMANENTLY LOST TO THE GAME.

BECAUSE several hundred new clubs will undertake their first outdoor range programs this summer. Many of their officials, as well as their members, will be relatively inexperienced. They are going to lean heavily on their observance of the conduct of "old-timers" as a guide to the proper conduct of their ranges and the proper deportment of themselves on the firing line. These new clubs think that the shooting game is composed of the finest sportsmen in the world. OLD-TIME CLUBS AND "BIG-NAME" SHOOTERS WILL, BY THEIR EXAMPLE THIS SUMMER, ESTABLISH THE FUTURE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF AN ENTIRELY NEW GENERATION OF TARGET SHOOTERS.

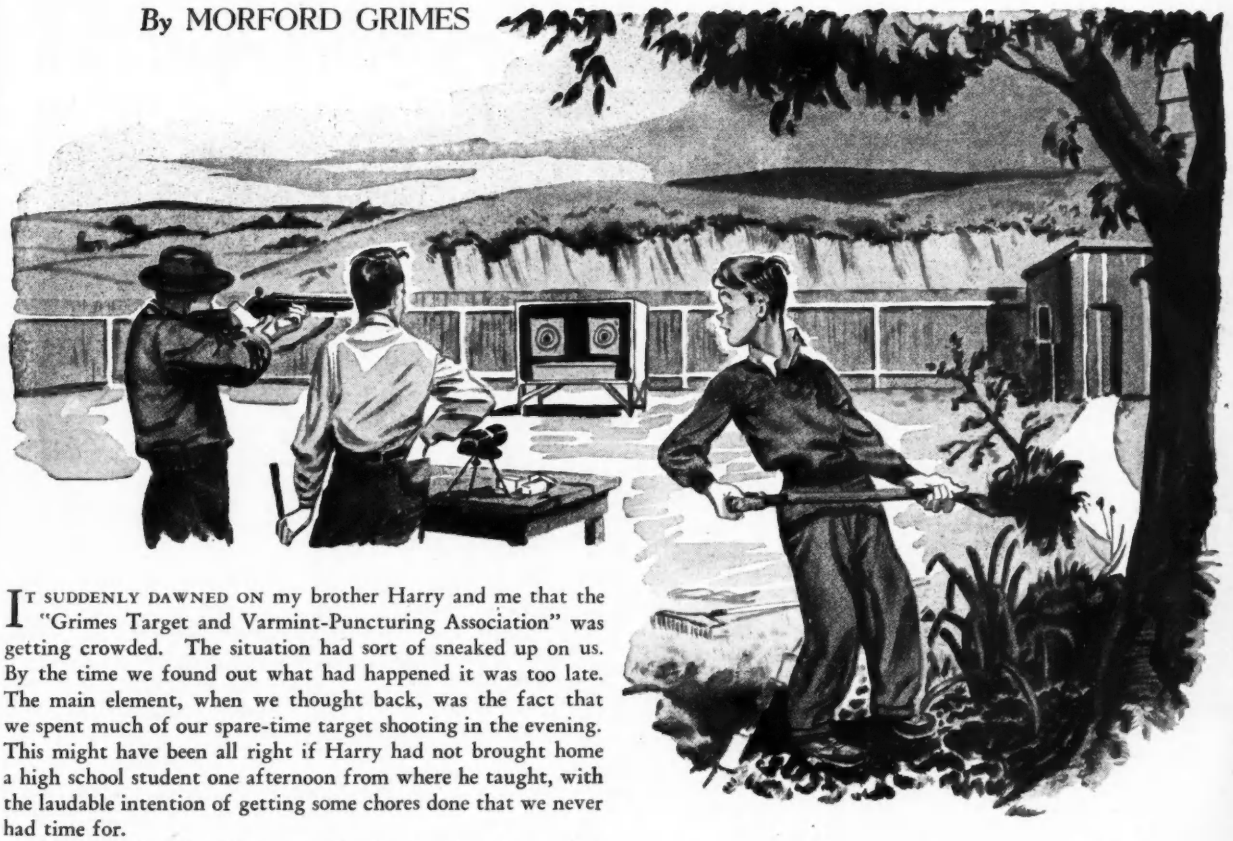
BECAUSE there is ample money available to clubs with the initiative to go out and get enough acreage and to build modern "shooting country clubs." There are almost twice as many individual members on the rolls of the NRA who belong to no club as there are men who belong to a local club. There are tens of thousands more prospective shooters who do not, at this time, belong either to the NRA or any local club simply because there are no adequate local facilities. IN HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES LOCAL BUILDING PROJECTS WILL BE STARTED THIS SUMMER THAT WILL RAISE THE PRESTIGE AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF CIVILIAN RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUBS TO NEW HIGH LEVELS.

The 1947 outdoor shooting season is not to be taken as a matter of course. It will be a season of decision—decision to capitalize on our opportunities or decision to let Nature take its course—and Nature's course is to go from the high hopes and throbbing new life of spring to the dead, enervated Dog Days of midsummer! From what we have seen and heard all over the country, the decision has already been made—new life, new blood has come with the spring, new crops of shooters are in the making, new standards of range construction have been set. The shooting game has taken up its postwar march.—C. B. L.

THE AUTHOR LET A KID SHOOT HIS RIFLE ONE AFTERNOON AND SOON FOUND HIMSELF INSTRUCTOR OF A JUNIOR GROUP IN A RIFLE CLUB

The Juniors Are Coming

By MORFORD GRIMES



IT SUDDENLY DAWNED ON my brother Harry and me that the "Grimes Target and Varmint-Puncturing Association" was getting crowded. The situation had sort of sneaked up on us. By the time we found out what had happened it was too late. The main element, when we thought back, was the fact that we spent much of our spare-time target shooting in the evening. This might have been all right if Harry had not brought home a high school student one afternoon from where he taught, with the laudable intention of getting some chores done that we never had time for.

The main chore in this case consisted of spading the garden, a pursuit completely devoid of dignity and inspiration. So we picked up our rifles, gave the boy our blessings and a spade, and sallied forth in search of the elusive bullseye. We were shooting offhand, into an improvised sandbox and sheet-metal backstop. We hadn't been shooting long when we noticed the boy watching us. He was still spading, technically speaking, but by touch alone. Considering the fact that my mother had flower beds scattered all over the yard and garden, this technique was fraught with peril, both for the flower beds and the boy. Just as he was about to plow blissfully into a large spread of mother's dahlias, we yelled at him to stop and come on over and he could finish the spading later.

By the time the handle of the spade had hit the ground he had arrived, vibrating like a pup getting its ears scratched. We finished our string, loaded the rifle for him, and told him to bang away. Obviously his experience with a rifle had been confined to showcase windows. All he knew about the thing was which end the bullet came out of. The first shot he shut his eyes, set himself rigidly, and heaved back on the trigger as if he were pulling stumps. The target suffered no change whatever. He looked a little sheepish when we told him he wouldn't be taking advantage of the situation if he took a peek when he was shooting, and that he needn't sprain his back pulling the trigger. By the time he had shot half a box things were getting better and the target was beginning to show signs of wear. Of course, it was too dark to finish the spading, so we told him to come back tomorrow night and finish.

The next night he came equipped with a friend, ostensibly to speed up the spading. But Harry and I weren't deceived by this generous offer, so we told them to finish the spading and then we would all do some shooting. The garden promptly erupted like an exploding mine field. Harry and I hardly had

time to tack up some targets before the boys were standing around like a couple of starved dogs waiting for a pork chop. We gave each of them about the same amount of shooting as the first boy had the day before, and both were hitting the target regularly when darkness came.

From then on our junior proteges accumulated like ants on a puddle of molasses. It wasn't long before our promising little horticultural boom degenerated into a shooting boom, and we found ourselves with six rabid rifle fanatics on our hands.

The situation was perfectly clear. We had to transform our newly acquired raw material into six finished riflemen. The only trouble was that Harry and I were completely innocent of the vaguest idea about how to train riflemen. With what knowledge we had, the whole curriculum could be summed up in one word—"don't." Obviously such a course was bound to skip a few points, so we went in search of a few "do's."

Finally, after much pawing around among our shooting junk, we unearthed an old handbook on small-bore rifle shooting put out years before by the Winchester people. After digesting this to the accompaniment of much mental and physical anguish, we started on the boys. There is no point in going into the details of the Winchester pamphlet other than to say that it included about everything related to small-bore shooting: Safety, rifle care, nomenclature, positions, various ratings, range construction, organization, and what-not. In short, just about everything the regular NRA course includes. But, like the others, it offered nothing in the interest of position comfort or postfiring bullet control. Fortunately we had no trouble getting ammunition since that was in the dim bygone days when obtaining ammunition didn't require filling in a five-page notarized questionnaire. The only paper work necessary then was the handling of a few bills.

After the boys had shot in the back yard for some time and had recovered enough from the torture of position shooting to get around again, they began to agitate for a longer range. The only thing we could do to solve that was to find a co-operative farmer, which we finally did. We got permission to use a big pasture backed up by a high, well-sodded hill.

We were getting along beautifully in this pasture, and the boys were even getting so they could dope wind, when all of a sudden a blow came along that defied doping and swept us right off the range. One day about three weeks after we had started shooting the farmer came up to us and told us rather apologetically that he was afraid we'd have to find another place to practice. It seemed that his cows were getting jittery at our presence and were withholding the only thing cows seem able to withhold. As a consequence his milk checks were beginning to shrink. Also, he told us he was afraid they would eat some of the empty hulls scattered around in the grass and get sick. Considering a cow's almost inexhaustible supply of stomachs, we couldn't see why a few hulls should make any difference, but we kept our peace anyhow. As it turned out, it was well we did.

I don't know what brought it on, but as we were picking up our equipment and talking to our ex-landlord, he suddenly let drop the information that he needed a boy on the farm to help him during the summer, and would pay him a dollar a day and keep. This little gem had hardly gotten into circulation when the boys seized on it like the jack-pot question on the radio. The first one to find his voice got the job. Friend farmer also announced, as if to salve fresh wounds, that he had an unlimited supply of chucks, rats, foxes, crows, red squirrels, and similar fodder the boy could take care of in his spare time. Thus, it appeared that rifles and maximum milk output weren't completely incompatible after all. This little offering helped Harry hatch one of his more brilliant ideas. Before we left we found from our friend that his neighbors were in about the same fix as he, and could also use some boy power. All the boys agreed that a dollar a day was quite a financial killing, and the farmer agreed to speak to his neighbors for us.

Within a week Harry and I had the satisfaction of seeing all six of our boys installed on farms for a dollar a day and keep for the rest of the summer, which wasn't bad for a boy in those days. We learned that the chief prod to this burst of ambition was the fact that they had all decided they wanted rifles of their own, and this offer was practically a pipe line to Fort Knox. So far as Harry and I were concerned the chief advantage was that they were getting practical field experience (although some of it with a pitchfork) that we hadn't time to give them. One young fellow went the limit with his earnings and bought a Model 52 heavy barrel. The others all got rifles with bolt action, sling, and peep sights, but not so expensive.

During the summer Harry and I kept track of things and got several interesting reports from the boys and their bosses. From what we heard it seemed the vermin population was having a harrowing summer. True, one fellow slipped a little one day in mistaking a skunk for a ground hog, which was not the choicest mistake he could have made. In the ensuing exchange of shots the boy missed, but the skunk didn't. This was the only casualty of note. It ruined the boy socially for a while, but eventually he got over it.

One boy in particular made things miserable for the crows. His boss said the boy's bedroom *(Continued on page 34)*

Remodeling the .45

By BILL KIRSH

IN EVERY PISTOL MATCH there are three quantities which can be blamed for poor scores—the gun, the shooter, and the ammunition. Since cartridges are relatively stable, and require only four components, the case, the lead bullet, the powder, and the primer, and since commercial manufacture gives them a high standard of quality, they can't be blamed for poor scores. To listen to any pistol shooter you know that he couldn't fire a poor score. The blame must be put upon the gun.

In .45 caliber matches this is particularly true. Unmodified, the Colt .45 semiautomatic pistol is a workmanlike piece which performs admirably as a sidearm for service personnel. It's true these unmodified .45's have fired good scores in pistol matches. Look at the bulletins of the National Individual Trophy Match for any year it was fired at Camp Perry.

But if used unmodified in competition for any length of time, the .45 behaves like a woman, capricious and occasionally vindictive—deliberately firing bad scores, so some shooters tell.

If, however, you have the equipment to be a home gunsmith,

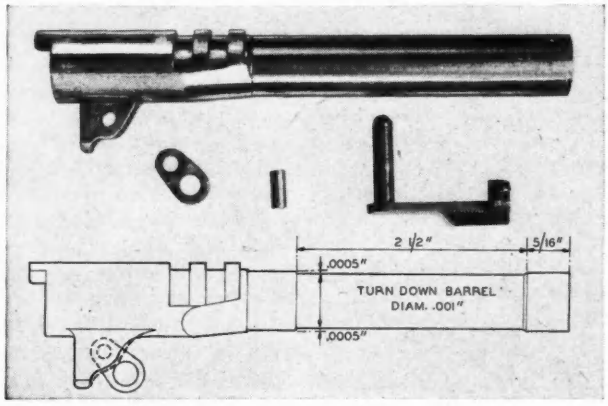
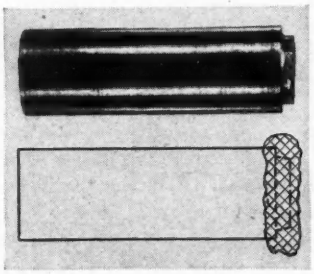


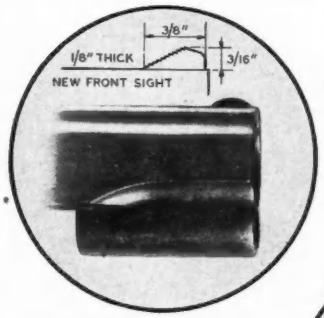
Diagram shows where barrel is turned down .001 inch, and slide stop welded and reshaped to give a snug link fit

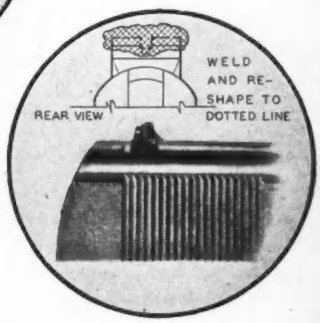
the task of making a good gun out of your GI .45 will not be too difficult. The following is the work that has to be done. First: Completely strip the gun down to its bare facts. Second: Install high, wide sights. Third: Refit all the loose working parts. Fourth: Adjust the trigger pull to four pounds. Fifth: Install trigger stop. Sixth: Polish and reblue the entire gun.



Play of recoil spring plug is lessened by welding and reshaping tip

After stripping the gun, lay all parts neatly on your work bench so that you have them spread out in an orderly fashion. Place the barrel bushing, one of the important parts as it keeps the muzzle of the barrel in position with relation to the sights, in your lathe, being sure the lathe is turning concentric and at a slow speed. Using your boring bar, bore the diameter which now measures .585 inch to .650 inch. The depth of this bore should be only 7/32 inch. Now take a piece of drill rod and turn it to .648 inch for a length of ¼ inch. Insert this piece of rod in the bored bushing and silver solder it in place. After allowing this to cool slowly, drill and rebore the bushing so that the barrel fits in it without any play.

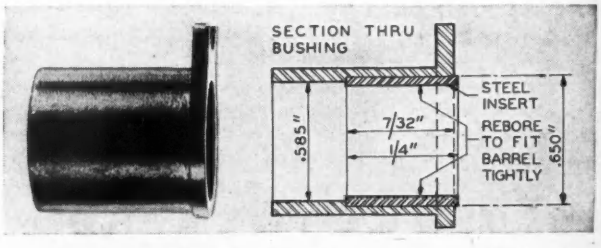




Front sight (above) is removed and another installed, and rear sight (right) is raised

The closer these two parts fit without binding, the better the accuracy will be. Now set the barrel in the lathe so that it, too, runs concentric. Set the tool bit 5/16 inch away from the end of the barrel and feed the tool in reducing the diameter of the barrel .001 inch for a length of 2½ inches. Then polish with emery cloth. This is done so that the action will function.

Now the rear part of the barrel must be rebuilt using drill rod. Weld a bead as shown in the diagram and refit so that the link and slide stop have a snug fit when tried together. The next step is to weld the recoil spring plug as shown and reshape it in the lathe. Be careful not to bend it out of shape. This is easy to do. As a safeguard I suggest that you insert a solid piece into the plug before turning. Now you have only the slide to fit. Using a rawhide mallet, pound the sides of the slide until all the side, and up and down play is removed. Move the hammer constantly so as not to squeeze the slide too much in one place. You will find that it takes quite a hard blow to show any change. Keep trying the slide for fit as you progress. When you are sure that you have all the (*Continued on page* 12)



A steel insert in barrel bushing gives closer fit around the barrel

SPRING TONIC FOR FALL H

By BERT POPOWSKI

SEVENTY YARDS BELOW THE outthrust shelf of limestone on which I sat, dry jack pine branches began to pop. My ears directed my eyes as the racket continued up the valley. Over 150 yards away I first saw motion, the veriest flick of a white flag. The buck came into an old logging road and stopped, his eyes, ears, and nose questing for exact location of the danger which had flushed him.

The scope was on him before he stopped, the cross hairs settling on the point of the shoulder. I squeezed smoothly; the valley rang with the muzzle blast, then echoed it. The buck moved easily behind a row of trees, peered out at me, then disappeared. I sat for some minutes, regretting that I couldn't have spared the time to examine that magnificent animal at leisure through the scope.

That buck hadn't given the slightest evidence of having been hit, yet I wasn't too worried. The rifle was zeroed for 100 yards and I'd checked that zero only that morning. The range was an estimated 200 yards and I'd held an estimated three inches high to allow for bullet drop over the additional 100 yards. I felt fairly confident of a hit because that same rifle had picked off several dozen assorted varmint targets during the past summer, placing its 100 grain slugs with deadly precision in crows, coyotes, prairie dogs, and woodchucks, all of them minute in comparison to the size of that grand buck.

When my hunting partner topped out on the next ridge, I laid aside my rifle, stood in plain sight, and gave him the boxer's gesture of triumph. He dropped down into the valley toward me while I stayed atop the ridge and paced off the distance as accurately as possible. It came out to 187 paces, directly above the gash in the timber cut by the old lumbering road. The snow showed no blood where he'd stopped, but when I circled to where he'd peered out at me, dribbling blood had cut an inch-sized hole through the snow to the pine needles beneath. Fifteen yards further along that buck commenced to fight to stay on his feet, going to his hocks, his knees, and generally tearing up the snow. He fell once, got up again, but fell again less than six feet away. That's where I found him.

After he was bled, dressed, and hung, I spent an hour studying that shot. I had missed the so-called ideal shot which breaks the shoulder joints and causes the animal to plough into the ground, helpless to go further. I had also missed spoiling a lot of meat, which invariably attends such a "breakdown" shot, and my buck was so helpless that he couldn't even maintain his own elevation level, having fought steadily downhill from the point where he'd been hit. What the shot had proved, to my complete satisfaction, was that long hours of gunning the varmints had paid off in a clean kill.

This story really begins ten years earlier. At that time I was fortunate enough to have fallen in with Al Haugan, a rifleman who knew all the answers concerning range, trajectory, wind drift, and those areas on a flesh-and-blood target where a bullet is instantly lethal. For six years we hunted on an average of two or three times a week, using the .220 Swift, the .250-3000, the .257, and the .30-'06. Though we fired several thousand rounds out of these so-called big-game calibers, we never killed a buck deer, a bull elk, not even a pronghorn antelope.

Jack rabbits, crows, prairie dogs, and the destructive hawks were our targets, supplemented with an occasional coyote or fox. For all this varmint shooting we handloaded a variety of bullet weights and shapes, always striving for that ultimate in accuracy—groups that stayed within one minute of angle at reasonable shooting ranges. We had a lot of fun and substantially reduced the surplus varmint populations. And I learned a lot about the behavior of bullets in flight.

Four years ago our paths diverged, but with me went the most accurate rifle of the lot—a Model 54 Winchester in .250-3000 caliber, fitted with a Fecker 6X scope with Number 2 cross hairs. With me, too, went a lot of the lessons I'd learned

TIME SPENT SHOOTING CHUCKS SHARPENS A HUNTER FOR DEER SEASON

L HUNTERS

from Al Haugan: on estimating range, on figuring wind drift and, most important, where to place bullets for merciful kills. Since then I may have grown rusty on range and wind drift, but in training my two sons to become deadly rifleshots I have always stressed clean kills.

Too many fathers implant the wrong ideas in their sons when they express satisfaction with the resounding "whock" of a bullet hitting flesh anywhere in the body area. We don't feel that way about it, my two sons and I. We know that a pet rifle can change its zero overnight, so we check that zero with a shot or two before pulling down on a live target. We know that the first shot out of a clean, cold barrel is seldom near the mid-point of any group that may be subsequently fired, which is another reason for checking that zero with more than one shot. Finally, we know that bullets of different weight and/or shape have differing zeros, so we use the same load throughout any shooting session. If a change to another load is indicated, we check the zero on that before pulling down on a flesh-and-blood target. As a consequence we are killers, if you want to put it that way, but we don't take pleasure in scratch hits on varmints or game.

We get a lot of shooting practice on varmint targets, that's true. But we feel that even varmints are entitled to merciful treatment. When we're in a prairie dog town, we hold to the shoot-until-you-miss rule, which permits one gunner to retain the rifle only as long as the other two verify his kills. Thus, Jerry may run a string of a dozen doggies before a random gust of wind unseats him; I may have to yield the rifle to John after only a shot or two if the last one is a miss.

Of all our varmint targets the crow and the prairie dog call for the utmost in precision: the crow because of its extreme wariness, and the doggie because of its habit of exposing as little target as possible, regardless of range. Yet, last summer the three of us shot up a flourishing prairie dog village to the tune of 247 kills out of six boxes (300 rounds) of ammunition. When we revisited that town a week later, we saw not over a score of survivors, definite indication that it would take a half-dozen years before they would increase sufficiently again to overrun good grazing range.

The .22 we use for such shooting is zeroed at seventy-five yards and shots taken in excess of this range simply call for sufficient holdover based on accurate range estimation. Of course, if the scope used on a rifle is capable of being easily set for shots at longer range, and time allows such resetting, that is the best method of accurately placing your bullets. But in prairie dog shooting with a .22, the range is generally held to under 100 yards since wind drift becomes too great a factor at longer distances. The same advice applies to the use of the .22 on woodchucks.

The crow's wariness makes it impossible to get any number of shots under 150 yards and for shooting these varmint birds with a rifle the larger calibers of high velocity are used. The .220 Swift is a favorite because of its extremely flat trajectory, the .250-3000 is less flat in its bullet flight but better withstands the effects of wind, and the .257 is just a shade ahead of the

last-named caliber but is not so nice a gun to shoot. Any of these three calibers makes a fine coyote and fox rifle since wind drift is not so important on these larger targets.

Now we come to the determination of where to plant the bullets for surest and quickest kills. At seventy-five yards the prairie dog's head is an uncertain target; human error and wind drift make it more so. In proportion to the brain area, the whole head is quite sizeable, but that makes it more uncertain for perfect kills, for the squat rodent is inclined to move its noggin considerably. Perhaps one of the reasons we don't try for many head shots on either doggies or woodchucks is because I have had binoculars on such varmints when less choosey

riflemen were doing the shooting. I've seen random bullets take off the snout, or shatter the lower jaw, or merely cut a gouge out of one cheek. Those shots were not instantly fatal, though the doggies and chucks undoubtedly died—ultimately. But that's not for us.

Our favorite portion of the prairie dog target (and this applies to jacks, woodchucks, coyotes, and foxes) is the center of the chest cavity, with an eye to placing the bullet so it breaks the critter's forequarters down and pierces the lungs. If it's a shot from front or rear we still hold on the chest cavity since the foreshoulders will catch any bullet that wanders ever so slightly, while one that is delivered with dead-center precision takes both lungs and backbone in its path and kills instantly. Never do we shoot for the larger belly target *unless* the doggie crouches horizontally and the bullet thus has a chance to go through, catching the chest cavity enroute.

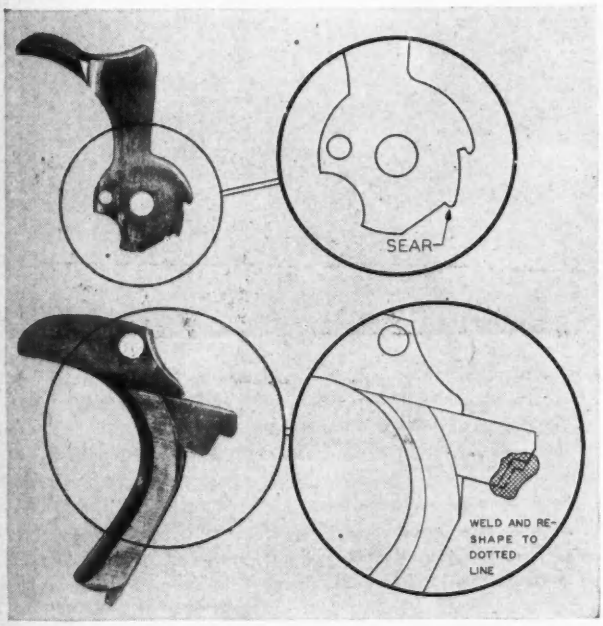
No rifleman can long explore animal physiology with his bullets without comparing the results of targets hit in certain areas with the results of hits with randomly placed slugs. The more practice shooting he does on varmints, the more set he will become in his determination to place his bullets with equal precision when he goes after big game. And, when you give such a hunter a good shot at a deer or elk or black bear, there's meat in the pot and a trophy for the wall! Big-game animals represent too much time and effort in the preparation for the hunt and in the maintenance of a competent game reserve to be wantonly crippled. A hunter who goes after deer, for instance, without having properly sighted in his rifle and without knowing what it will do in trajectory and bucking the wind is certainly the sloppiest kind of a workman. He falls in the same category in my book as the big-game hunter who cannot restrain himself and must shoot at everything that moves in the timber. He's a murderer, even if his victims aren't human!

If you would avoid falling into that classification, or having your son do so, why not work on the varmints during the off-season. They'll give you plenty of sport, get you out in the fresh air and sunshine, and sharpen your shooting so you can smack your buck with a bullet planted so precisely that he will pile up within yards of where he was hit. You owe it to yourself, to your son, and to your game. ◆ ◆ ◆

Remodeling the .45

(*Continued from page 9*)

loose parts snugly fitted, reassemble the gun and test it manually to see if it is working. If it is on the sluggish side, keep working it in with your hands until it wears into perfection. On the other hand, if it is too tight to work at all, check to see what part is binding and relieve the pressure. By the way, using Rig on the moving parts helps to get the gun working.



(Top) Sear is honed as shown in sketch to give a crisp four pound trigger pull. (Bottom) Building up notch in the grip safety provides a trigger stop

Now let's move on to the installation of your high, wide sights. Before removing the front sight, scribe a line locating the center of it. Also, take the height of it so that you will know how high to make your new sight. Now take a piece of mild steel, ⅛ inch thick by ⅜ inch long and 3/16 inch high; after removing your old sight, place it in position using the scribed line to locate the center. Clamp and silver solder this new sight in place. You now have a good strong front sight that will never come loose. File the front face of the sight in a ramp effect, then checker across. Slope the top of the sight and round off the rear as shown in the diagram. The rear sight can be made either from scratch or you may weld it to the correct height. To do either, check how much you raised the front sight and raise the rear accordingly. Then file in your notch, using calipers to get it in the center.

Item number four concerns the adjustment of your trigger pull to four pounds. If you have replaced the trigger mechanism, remove the hammer only and with a fine hone very carefully change the sear as shown in the sketch.

Item number five is modifying the trigger stop to prevent backlash. This is accomplished by building up the grip safety with welding rod as shown in the sketch. You will have to try it in the gun several times before you get the correct fit. While you are doing this part of the rebuilding, remove only a small amount of weld at a time and keep trying it in the gun for fit.

Now we are at the final part of making a good-shooting and good-looking gun out of your GI Model .45. Once again take the gun completely apart and start in polishing it with No. 100 grit sandpaper first; then graduate down to No. 240 grit. Finally, if you have a fine wire brush polish it by buffing. After blueing the parts with some good blueing salts, reassemble your .45 and the results should make you happy. ◆ ◆ ◆

Some Notes on Reloading

By H. GUY LOVERIN

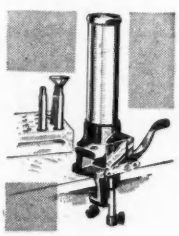
IN CASTING APPROXIMATELY 1,500,000 BULLETS, both for my customers' and my own use, I have had to do much reloading and testing. This has resulted in some unusual experiences and touched upon subjects which have seldom been mentioned in discussions on reloading.

I was getting very unsatisfactory results with one rifle and 200 empty cases I had purchased until I miked the inside of each case neck with an expanding plug, and graded the cases in three lots according to size. Four boxes of twenty cases each required a certain size neck die, and five boxes required a neck die .001 inch smaller. Another box of mixed sizes required considerable grinding with steel wool to get them to a uniform size. Since then, I have always graded any new lot of empty cases this way before loading them.

Often, cases of different make are of thinner brass than are others. For instance, Hornet cases of a certain make are of such thin brass that they hold one-half grain more of powder than do others. These thin cases, of course, require the use of a smaller size neck die to get them to hold bullets firmly.

Recently, while experimenting with du Pont No. 4759 in the Hornet case, I couldn't get enough powder into the case by normal loading methods to get clean burning. So, I resorted to the old idea of using a long drop tube, only I used a long funnel and poured the powder in slowly. Lo and behold, I could get one grain more of powder into the case than by pouring the powder in fast. This idea works with other cases, too. The capacity of the .250-3000 is increased 2.75 grains when loading du Pont No. 3031 by this method. This little trick might interest those who overload; pressures might be kept down in small-capacity cases by using a slower-burning powder such as No. 4064 instead of No. 3031.

Experience sounds a warning to those who may reload both full loads and light loads, saying: *"Don't use any cases for full loads that have been used for light loads."* The shoulder-to-head length of cartridge cases shorten, so I understand, because our modern primers are so powerful. When a primer explodes, the case is driven ahead and primer back, against the face of the bolt. Some of the metal flows out around the primer so that the primer gets all of the backward thrust of the bolt. Primers are subject to high pressure, so it seems. I overcome this by applying a thin film of lubricating oil on any cartridges which show protruding primers. When these are fired, the cases stretch back to normal shoulder-to-head length.



This trouble has shown up mostly in a heavy-barreled .257 rifle of mine. Before I paid much attention to it, one box of cases had become so short that a few misfires resulted. It was then that I had to do some tall thinking, but oil did the job. I have never experienced this trouble with two other rifles of mine. I hate to think of what might have happened if I had been a reloader using this box of twenty cases for some heavy hunting loads. This trouble actually amounts to excessive headspace plus!

It is possible that large pistol primers in cast bullet reloads may eliminate any possibility of case shortening since these are not as powerful as rifle primers. I started some tests along this line, but couldn't finish them because primers went to war. But when making these tests one would have to be careful that no cases primed with pistol primers were ever used with heavy loads.

Soon after I began reloading for my .257, I found that I got .001 inch expansion or less on case necks when using Bond 257616 bullets, yet other bullets gave .004 inch to .005 inch neck expansion. This occurred with fast loads using nineteen grains of No. 4198 powder as well as with a slower load of twelve grains of No. 4227 powder. These two loads are tops for accuracy. Yet, when using them, gas escapes in some unexplainable way, flowing back and forming a cushion between the neck and chamber. Case necks turn black from this, but the black wipes off easily with a cleaning patch soaked in Hoppe's No. 9 gun oil. I realize all our experts say this can't happen, but it does and I can't figure it out.

During the years I was casting bullets, reloaders threw many of their problems at me. One in particular which bothered a great many was the fact that crimp doesn't shoot out. Many of my customers thought they had tight chambers because bullets .002 inch or .003 inch larger than the groove diameter of the barrel wouldn't enter cases readily. But in nearly every case, the trouble was found to be that the crimp had not been removed before loading. This resulted in many unnecessary calls for cast bullets to be sized to the groove diameter of barrel. I had pulled many hundreds of bullets from .30-'06 cases and I knew this crimp had to be removed by chamfering. But I had supposed that upon firing all crimp was removed. It was only recently that I found out differently. It is well to give cases a generous amount of chamfering when one plans to reload with cast bullets since their bases must not be damaged. Those who reload for tubular magazine rifles must not remove crimp by chamfering.

It is my opinion that chamfering reamers should be more tapered than those supplied by some reloading toolmakers. I have several of different sizes and shapes, all homemade from old three-cornered files. Slow grinding on a wheel doesn't remove the temper from them, consequently they hold their keen edge a long time. One of these is made to the correct size for use in removing the burr on those .30-'06 cases where the primers were crimped in.

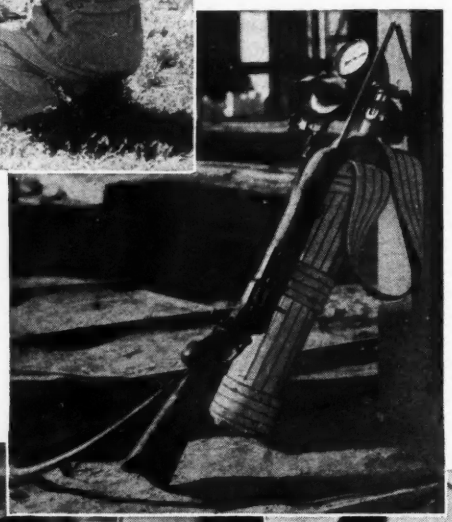
During the next few years there will be many new bullets on the market for reloaders. I have designed one for the .38-55 which should greatly increase killing power of this fine old rifle. Mr. Ralph W. MacWilliams, 519 High Street, Clinton, Massachusetts, will cast these new bullets as well as others for reloaders, because my health won't allow me to continue my business of supplying them. ◆ ◆ ◆

Tricks of the Movie Marksmen

By POWELL CLARK

WHEN YOU SEE BULLETS kicking up dust near a movie hero's face, you may wonder how it is done without danger of splattering lead or ricochets. One of the cleverest means of making bullet-striking photographic effects has recently been devised by Roy Wade, a Republic Studios assistant director. He has designed a powerful compressed-air gun that shoots medical capsules, loaded with fuller's earth.

For air power a compressed-air tank is connected by a heavy rubber hose with a metal tube that extends an inch from the back of the pistol grip. A large trigger acts as an air release. As the air tank holds a large supply of air, there is no need for stopping to pump between shots. There is a brass revolving cylinder at the breech. This can be loaded with twelve capsules. You can shoot the capsules as fast as you can twirl the cylinder with your thumb or forefinger and pull the air release trigger. Wade can shoot twelve capsules faster than some riflemen can empty a five-cartridge clip on a bolt-action rifle. (*Continued on page* 21)



(Above) Firing the air gun against a rock on which the hero is kneeling gives the effect of his being under fire. (Right) The air gun and the compressed air tank

(Below) Roy Wade loads capsules into the cylinder of the air gun he designed. (Below, at right) Wade firing his gun

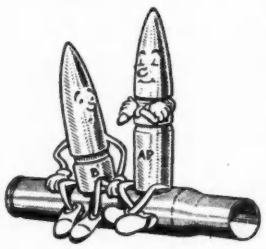
AIR GUNS FIRING MEDICAL CAPSULES LOADED WITH FULLER'S EARTH GIVE THOSE EFFECTS OF STRIKING BULLETS YOU SEE IN THE MOVIES

A.P. vs. BALL

By EDWARDS BROWN, Jr.

Something was missed by the old-timers at Camp Perry during the 1946 National Matches. That was the familiar "whump" of the caliber .30's on the big range along Lawrence Road. With a hearty noon meal under his belt, in the days before the war, a waiting shooter could lie in the grass behind the firing line, looking up at big white cumulus clouds floating in that deep blue Camp Perry sky; the Springfields would "whump" him to sleep.

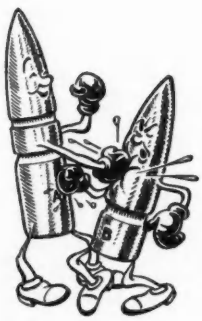
Those were the days of the bolt-action military rifles and the 172 grain boattail bullet. Now there will be the semiautomatic, M1 Garand rifle, which proved itself during the last war. There will also be the 152 grain bullet; or will it be the 168.5 grain Armor-Piercing bullet?



That is the question in regard to the ammunition to be used in the future service matches, and no one seems to have the answer. Actually no one will be able to answer it until it is known what ammunition the Army will have available, and the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice decides.

Nevertheless, there are certain facts concerning the performance of the two bullets which will undoubtedly be considered in arriving at a decision. There is no reason we shouldn't try to throw some light on the subject and kick it around a little. The matter is now timely because the Director of Civilian Marksmanship is listing the A.P. M2 Aircraft-Grade ammunition for sale and shooters are asking:

1. "What is the difference between the A.P. M2 round and the Ball M2 round?"
2. "Will the A.P. M2 bullet wear my barrel out faster than regular bullets?"
3. "Will our range backstop be penetrated by the A.P. M2 bullet?"
4. "Is the A.P. M2 bullet more subject to ricochets than the other types of bullets?"
5. "Will the A.P. M2 bullet take the same sight settings at all ranges as the 152 grain bullet and the old 172 grain bullet?"
6. "Is Aircraft-Grade ammunition safe for use in rifles and, if so, is it as accurate as the 152 grain?"



Up to this point we have avoided using the name "Ball ammunition." The name is not descriptive but no one seems to have thought of a better one. Those familiar with military ammunition know what Ball ammunition is.

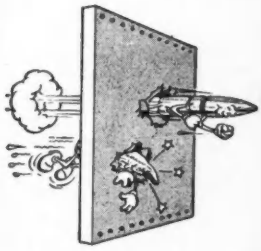
What Is a Ball Round?

The Ball bullet is actually not round but is exactly as you see it on page 17. The name Ball is used to distinguish the regular bullet from other bullets having names descriptive of the special purposes for which they were designed, such as Armor-Piercing, Tracer, Incendiary, Armor-Piercing Incendiary, or Armor-Piercing Incendiary Tracer. Ball is a carry-over from the old round-ball, muzzleloading days. Everybody understands that a round is one complete cartridge including everything, aside from the rifle, which is needed to fire the shot.

Physical Differences Between A.P. and Ball

As shown on page 17, the A.P. bullet is longer than the Ball bullet. A.P. is also about sixteen grains heavier than Ball, but considering that it is much longer, this difference in weight is small. The reason for this variation is that the A.P. core is steel, to give good armor-piercing qualities, while the Ball core is lead.

The standard core of the A.P. M2 bullet used to be made of tungsten chromium steel and the complete weight of the bullet was listed as 168.5 grains. Manganese-Molydenum superseded the tungsten-chromium core. It has not only proved as effective but is much more readily procurable and manufacturable. This latter bullet weighs about 166 grains, a difference of 2.5 grains. During the war both of the above-mentioned steels were rather scarce and the Ordnance Department substituted some carbon-steel cores. The carbon steel was the same as SAE 1070 * with the exception that "hot top" was specified and this resulted in a finer-grain steel than is ordinarily obtained on the SAE 1070 standard.

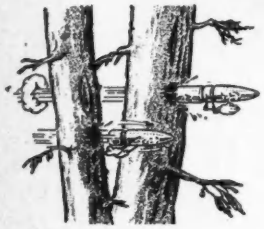


The center of the cannelure (groove around the bullet), into which the mouth of the cartridge case is crimped, is located .840 inch from the nose of the Ball bullet. The cannelure on this bullet is rolled or pressed into the gliding-metal surface compressing the lead beneath. The cannelure must be cut into the surface of the A.P. bullet because there is no give in the hard core. It is not possible to produce the desired depth of cannelure by pressure without weakening the jacket. The position of the center of the cannelure on the A.P. is approximately the same distance from the nose of the bullet as it is on the Ball. This leaves the assembled A.P. and Ball cartridges the same over-all length. Of course the A.P. bullet, being longer, extends further back in the cartridge case of the loaded round.

The reason for the base filler on the A.P. is to keep powder gases from getting in between the core and the jacket at the base. This filler is not needed on the Ball because in forming the bullet the lead flows to take up all of the space and provides a seal.

*SAE 1070 steel contains: Carbon .65 percent-.75 percent, Manganese .70 percent-1.00 percent, Phosphorus .040 percent max., Sulphur .050 percent max.

The A.P. bullet has a gilding-metal jacket. There was no A.P. ammunition manufactured with the steel gilding-metal-clad jackets. These jackets will, however, be found on a large percentage of Ball ammunition. This jacket is steel with a thickness of gilding metal on the outside amounting to 15 percent of the over-all thickness of the jacket.



The individual A.P. round can be identified by a black-painted point which covers approximately 9/16 inch of the bullet tip. The Ball bullet is left unpainted with only the copper-colored gilding metal showing. The narrow knurled band between the cannelure and the nose may not appear on all A.P. M2 bullets.

Bore Wear

When it became apparent that the A.P. round was going to be used extensively by the ground forces, the Ordnance Department made some tests to find out if this ammunition resulted in greater bore erosion than Ball. In this test each of the two types of ammunition was fired in two M1919A4 machine guns, two M1 Garands, and three M1903A3 rifles with two-groove barrels. Drop in velocity was used as a criterion of barrel wear. Accuracy was also noted so that it, too, could be correlated with barrel wear. One lot of Ball and one lot of A.P. were used throughout the tests.

Results indicated that there was about 2.5 percent more wear with A.P. than with Ball in the machine guns when firing seventy-five-round bursts and cooling the barrel with water between bursts. The test was carried to 6,000 rounds in each gun.

Results with the M1 Garand having four-groove barrels were as follows: (Rate of fire approximately forty rounds per minute. Barrels were water cooled every eighty rounds.)

VELOCITY AT 78 FEET

	Ball		A.P.	
	Velocity (f.s.)	Mean Variation (f.s.)	Velocity (f.s.)	Mean Variation (f.s.)
New rifle	2699	15.3	2694	11.7
After 6000 rounds	2661	16.2	2616	15.7
Velocity drop	38		78	

ACCURACY

Average of three ten-shot groups with each weapon at 600 yards:

	Mean Radius		Extreme Spread	
	Ball	A.P.	Ball	A.P.
New rifle	9.7	9.3	29.1	27.5
After 6000 rounds	15.4	12.0	46.9	37.7
Increase	37 percent	22.5 percent	38.0 percent	27.0 percent

Results with the M1903A3 rifles (two-groove barrels) were as follows:

VELOCITY AT 78 FEET

	Ball		A.P.	
	Velocity (f.s.)	Mean Variation (f.s.)	Velocity (f.s.)	Mean Variation (f.s.)
New rifle	2720	14	2644	9.2
After 6000 rounds	2655	15.3	2483	25.1
Velocity drop	65		161	

ACCURACY

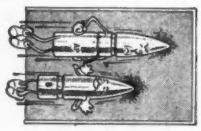
Average of three ten-shot groups with each weapon at 600 yards:

	Mean Radius		Extreme Spread	
	Ball	A.P.	Ball	A.P.
New rifle	8.1	7.6	24.3	23.1
After 4000 rounds	10.2	10.7	32.5	37.3
Increase	20 percent	29.0 percent	25.2 percent	38.0 percent

Conclusions:

1. In the M1 Garands having four-groove barrels, there is no great decrease in barrel life when A.P. is used instead of Ball.

2. Accuracy life of the M1903A3 rifles having two-groove barrels is decreased considerably by the use of A.P. in place of Ball. Apparently A.P. ammunition causes considerably more wear in two-groove barrels than in four-groove barrels. Probably the reason for this is that the two-groove barrels displace much more bullet metal than do the four-groove barrels and the hard A.P. core makes this displacement more difficult.



Range Safety

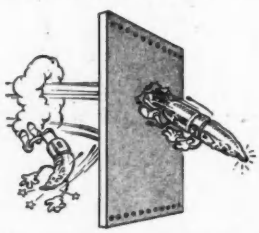
There is no question but that it takes more to stop the A.P. round than it does the Ball. The margin of difference in penetrative qualities is less marked in sand than in most other materials. The A.P. will penetrate nine to eleven inches into a sandbag backstop at 100 yards, but Ball is not far behind with a penetration of eight to ten inches.

Judging from tests conducted by the Ordnance Department A.P. will penetrate .25 inch of face-hardened armor plate at 100 yards with little energy to spare, but Ball is stopped cold. Ball will likely just make an opening through .25 inch of homogeneous armor plate at 100 yards, but A.P. will sail right on through. In fact, A.P. will penetrate .50 inch of homogeneous armor plate at 100 yards.

At fifty yards A.P. will penetrate a four-inch concrete wall. The maximum penetration of Ball in the same wall is only 1.5 inches. At 100 yards A.P. has an average penetration of 2.7 inches in a 3.5-foot concrete wall while Ball penetrates only 1.2 inches.

At 500 yards neither Ball nor A.P. will penetrate .5 inch of homogeneous armor plate. At the same range about 90 percent of the A.P. bullets will penetrate .25 inch of homogeneous plate. Ball sometimes may penetrate this plate at 500 yards.

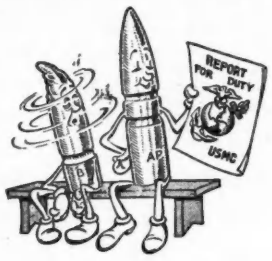
The A.P. bullet will pass through a pine tree twenty-six inches in diameter. The Ball bullet will penetrate the same kind of tree having a diameter of nineteen inches.



There is no doubt but that the A.P. bullet is much more subject to ricochets than the Ball bullet. This point should be taken into consideration, and an earth or sandbag backstop should be provided on the range, the face of which is very nearly vertical. *Caution:* A.P. cores have been known to bounce back as far as 100 yards from armor plate which they failed to penetrate.

Rifle Safety

A.P. ammunition was made for use in rifles as well as in machine guns. The fact that the ammunition sold by the D.C.M. is "Aircraft Grade" is good since it is the highest grade. Ammunition lots which have been designated "Aircraft Grade" have met certain inspection specifications which are more rigorous than those required of other ammunition.



As a matter of interest the A.P. ammunition has an average pressure of 48,000 pounds per square inch while Ball has an average pressure of 40,000 to 42,000 pounds per square inch. The pressure of 48,000 pounds per square inch is not excessive and the maximum individual pressure allowed is 54,000 pounds per square inch. Some .30-'06 sporting cartridges are loaded with pressures close to 54,000 pounds per square inch.

Accuracy

There is some question about the relative accuracy of A.P. M2 and Ball M2. The reason that this question is unanswered is, ammunition accuracy is apt to vary from lot to lot. It takes extensive testing with various lots of ammunition in several different rifles, under various conditions, to come up with positive results. The general opinion is that Ball is slightly more accurate at close range, both are about the same between 200 and 500 yards, but beyond 500 yards A.P. is superior. Probably because A.P. is the heavier bullet.

The Marine Corps favored A.P. for sniping purposes during the war. The Marines have also done a lot of shooting with A.P. on the rifle range and prefer it, particularly at the long ranges. Aldwin B. Lawrence reports on the Marine Corps' experience with this ammunition and the M1 Garand in an article, "Match Shooting with the M1," in the August, 1946, RIFLEMAN.

The only available reports on extensive testing come from the Ordnance Department. In 1944 they compiled production-testing data from the Denver Ordnance plant showing the mean radius for 100 consecutive lots of each of the subject types. The first and last lots in each series were as follows:

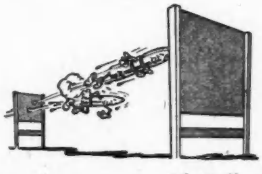
Armor Piercing, M2

(a) Lot DEN. 34470 accepted 6 Jan. 1944
Lot DEN. 34570 accepted 23 Feb. 1944
Average mean radius at 600 yards 5.05

Ball, M2

(b) Lot DEN. 15650 accepted 6 Jan. 1944
Lot DEN. 15750 accepted 23 Jan. 1944
Average mean radius at 600 yards 5.72

The War Department specifications allow a maximum mean radius for Ball of 7.5 inches. The corresponding specification for A.P. is 10.00 inches. The A.P. accuracy specification is not as strict as the Ball specification because production experience with the A.P. round early in the war was limited, and it was necessary to overcome accuracy problems to put it on a par with Ball. Note that in spite of the relatively lenient accuracy specifications for A.P. its average accuracy in 1944, at least in the Denver plant, was better than that for Ball at 600 yards' range. It is reasonable to assume that comparable results were obtained in other plants.



Exterior Ballistics

The sight settings for Ball and A.P. for all ranges up to and including 1000 yards are for all practical purposes the same. It may be possible to change from one ammunition to the other without changing sight settings, but don't assume this to be always true. For target shooting it may be necessary to make minor adjustments. Exterior ballistics for the two cartridges are as follows:

	Muzzle velocity
Ctg. Ball, Cal. .30 M2	2800 f.s.
Ctg. Armor Piercing, Cal. .30 M2	2770 f.s.

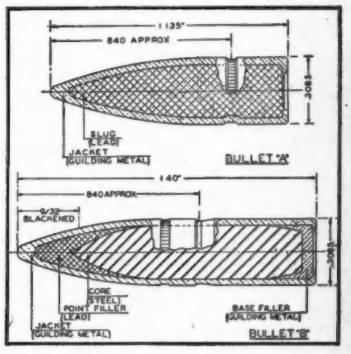
RANGE TABLE: CARTRIDGE, BALL, CAL. .30 M2

Range yards	Angles of elevation mils	Angles of elevation minutes	Angle of fall mils	Time of flight seconds	Maximum ordinate feet	Remaining velocity feet per second
100	.7	2.4	1	.12	0	2490
200	1.5	5.1	2	.25	0	2290
300	2.4	8.1	3	.38	1	2090
400	3.4	11.5	4	.53	1	1890
500	4.6	15.6	6	.70	2	1700
600	6.0	20.7	9	.89	3	1530
700	7.7	26.1	12	1.11	5	1360
800	9.6	32.5	17	1.35	7	1220
900	11.9	40.2	22	1.62	11	1100
1000	14.6	49.4	28	1.91	15	1030

A.P. has a slightly better ballistic coefficient than Ball.

From the foregoing it is not difficult to see why A.P. replaced Ball as a service round in the military forces. It is understood that the cavalry had been asking for A.P. for a long time but the official change-over came in 1943.

Ball will probably be continued as a training round because it is much cheaper to manufacture. However, since the Marines, having some of the finest marksmen in the world, have found A.P. more accurate on the rifle range there is some question regarding its use in competitive shooting.



Detailed comparison of the .30 cal. Ball and A.P. bullets

It is certain that the marksmen will want the most accurate cartridge available for National Match competition. The greater the accuracy of the rifle-and-ammunition combination, the more skill becomes a factor in winning. There is also something to the argument that the National Matches are in a way a proof test of the accuracy capabilities of our service weapons and ammunition in the hands of the cream of the marksmen crop. If Ball ammunition is used exclusively in competition then the actual service combination is not being put to test. Possibly the use of Ball or A.P. in military competition will be made optional. In this case Ball could be used at short range and A.P. for the long ranges. ● ● ●

Velocity As a Function of Headspace

By R. CUSHMAN WYCKOFF

So far as internal ballistics is concerned, it is difficult to introduce a variable factor into any phase of firearms performance without affecting most, if not all, of the other factors controlling the ultimate efficiency of the arm. It was with this in mind that a series of tests was undertaken during the early part of the war to determine the effect of variations

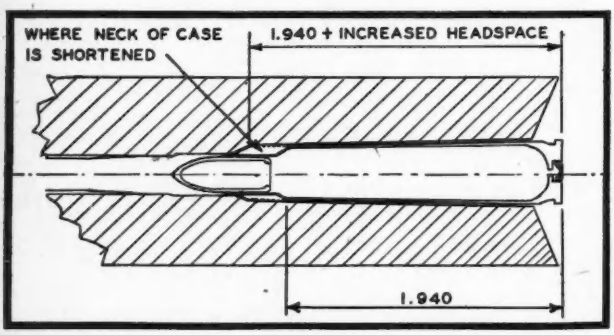


Figure 1: In a series of tests using .30-'06 M2 ammunition, the chamber of a velocity rifle was progressively lengthened between tests to determine the relation between headspace and velocity.

in headspace upon so apparently unrelated a factor as velocity. These tests, while not bringing to light any phenomenal ratio of velocity change as headspace was altered, did show a definite relationship between the two.

In order to conduct the tests a number of primed .30-'06 M2 cases were selected which had a head-to-shoulder length of 1.940 inches. These were all taken from the same taper and plug machine and were sent through the same primer insert machine. They were gauged by hand, using a head-to-shoulder gauge with a dial indicator attachment which gave the head-to-shoulder dimension directly to 0.0001 inch. Bullets (.30 caliber M2) were selected and gauged as to diameter and over-all length, and were the same weight to within 0.1 grain.

The cases were carefully handloaded with a charge of 52.0 grains of selected reference IMR 4676 powder. The accuracy of the handloading was indicated by the fact that the final balancing of the scales was determined by the addition of one or two pellets of powder. The bullets were inserted and the over-all length of the completed round gauged. No attempt was made to check bullet ogives. The bullets were simply all taken from one machine. Every precaution that could be thought of was taken, however, to produce completed rounds with characteristics as near like as possible.

These cartridges were then fired in ten-round groups in a .30 caliber velocity rifle. Between each group the chamber was reamed out a certain measured amount. The shoulder of the chamber was thus advanced toward the muzzle and the headspace increased by certain definite amounts. The exact procedure followed is described below.

The velocity rifle was used with a Modern Bond Corporation Universal Receiver. The instrumental velocities at seventy-eight feet were taken with a very accurately adjusted Le Boulenge chronograph. The same gunner and chronograph operator were used on all tests. The barrel was "precisionaire'd" and was found to be within the limits prescribed by the Ordnance Department for velocity rifles used for the acceptance proof testing of that type of small-arms ammunition, viz., land diameter from 0.3000 to 0.3005 inch and groove diameter from 0.3080 to 0.3085 inch. Firing pin protrusion was 0.075 inch.

For the first test, the barrel was reamed out till the headspace was exactly 1.940 inches, the same as the head-to-shoulder length of the cartridge cases. The bullet seat was adjusted so that the cartridge positioned both on the shoulder and the bullet ogive. Thus, in the first test there was no play between the face of the head of the cartridge and the face of the breechblock. After the first test, the shoulder of the chamber was advanced a certain amount and the next group fired. This procedure continued until the headspace of the barrel was 2.005 inches, some 0.062 inch over the maximum allowable, which is 1.943 inches.

In all tests after the first, in which the cartridge seated on the shoulder and bullet ogive, the cartridges were inserted in the chamber until they protruded slightly beyond the plane across the end of the chamber, and the final chambering was done by the careful closing of the action of the Universal Receiver. During this process, an inclined plane on the face of the breechblock cams the cartridge into the chamber. The reason for this was to get away from light firing pin blows as

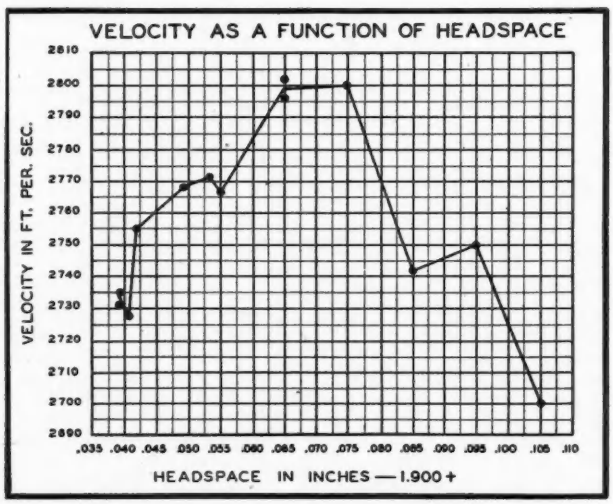


Figure 2: Graph showing relation of bullet velocity to variations in headspace

the shoulder was advanced farther and farther toward the muzzle. At its greatest advance it is seen that if the cartridge had been initially inserted till it positioned against the shoulder, the firing pin would have dented the (*Continued on page* 30)

A .270 ENTHUSIAST GIVES THE REASONS WHY HE OBTAINED ONE AND WHAT IT WAS THAT CONVINCED HIM HE HAD A REAL GUN

That Beautiful Blazer!

By BILL McCANDLASS

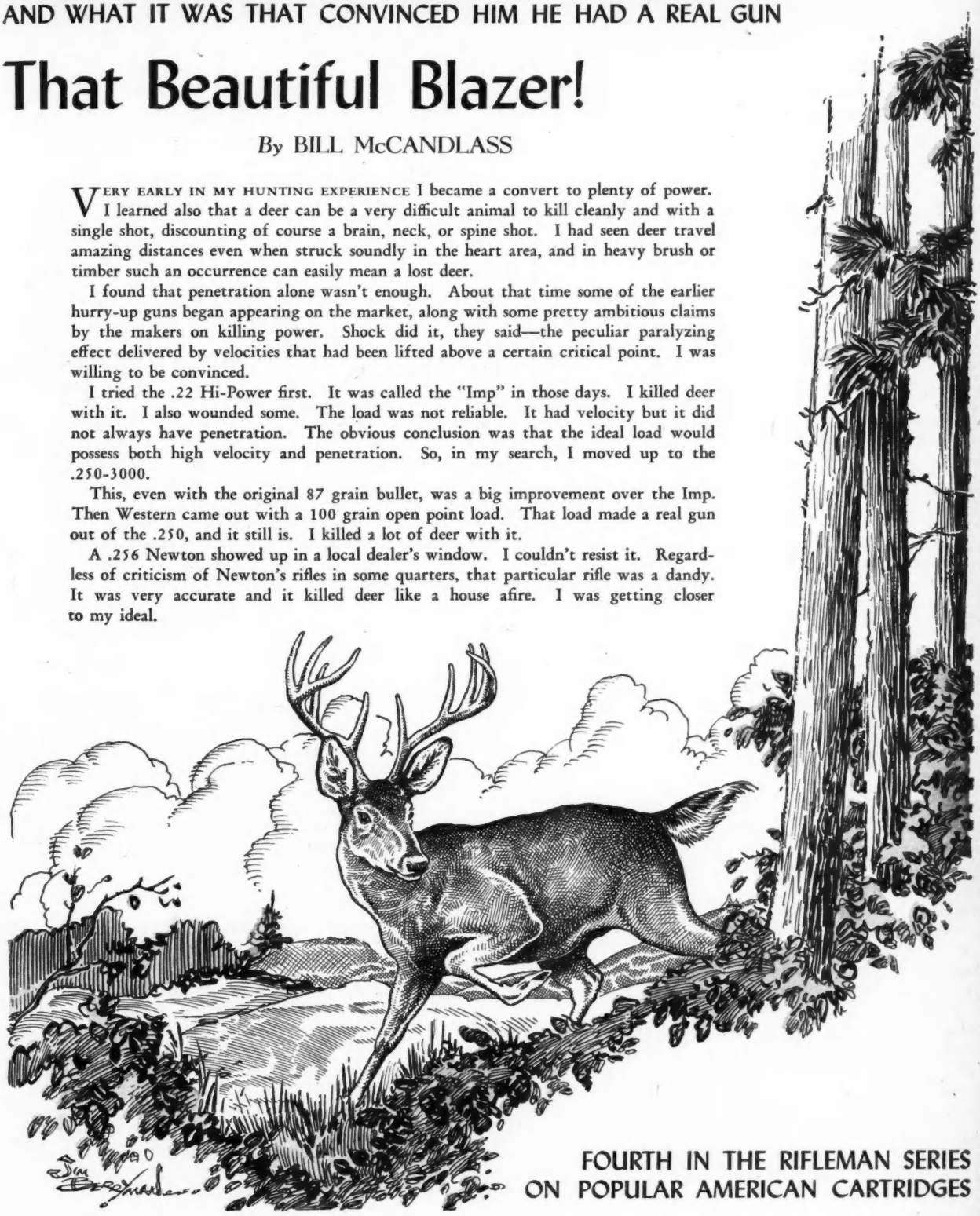
VERY EARLY IN MY HUNTING EXPERIENCE I became a convert to plenty of power. I learned also that a deer can be a very difficult animal to kill cleanly and with a single shot, discounting of course a brain, neck, or spine shot. I had seen deer travel amazing distances even when struck soundly in the heart area, and in heavy brush or timber such an occurrence can easily mean a lost deer.

I found that penetration alone wasn't enough. About that time some of the earlier hurry-up guns began appearing on the market, along with some pretty ambitious claims by the makers on killing power. Shock did it, they said—the peculiar paralyzing effect delivered by velocities that had been lifted above a certain critical point. I was willing to be convinced.

I tried the .22 Hi-Power first. It was called the "Imp" in those days. I killed deer with it. I also wounded some. The load was not reliable. It had velocity but it did not always have penetration. The obvious conclusion was that the ideal load would possess both high velocity and penetration. So, in my search, I moved up to the .250-3000.

This, even with the original 87 grain bullet, was a big improvement over the Imp. Then Western came out with a 100 grain open point load. That load made a real gun out of the .250, and it still is. I killed a lot of deer with it.

A .256 Newton showed up in a local dealer's window. I couldn't resist it. Regardless of criticism of Newton's rifles in some quarters, that particular rifle was a dandy. It was very accurate and it killed deer like a house afire. I was getting closer to my ideal.



FOURTH IN THE RIFLEMAN SERIES ON POPULAR AMERICAN CARTRIDGES

Then came World War I. Newton went bust. I couldn't get ammunition for my .256, so I regretfully disposed of it. After hostilities, among other guns, I used a .30-'06 sporter. I haven't a single criticism of that grand cartridge. It was then, and still is, the best all-around load ever devised by man—the handloader's dream. But I kept remembering that .256 Newton. . . .

Then Winchester announced a brand-new gun and a brand-new cartridge. The .270 and the Model 54. I ate up all the advance advertising I could find on gun and cartridge. I had the local dealer order me one and I was worse than a kid dreaming of Christmas until it came.

I wasn't disappointed. This was IT! It had everything. High velocity—plus. It shot a 130 grain bullet of good shape and fine sectional density, which meant that not only would it start out fast, but it would maintain a high degree of velocity, which meant punch and penetration out where the game stood. It was superlatively accurate, with flat trajectory and moderate recoil. I fretted myself half to death waiting for the season to open. In the meantime I became thoroughly acquainted with my new gun by working out on jack rabbits at all ranges, running and sitting. I learned what a wonderful handful of gun I owned.

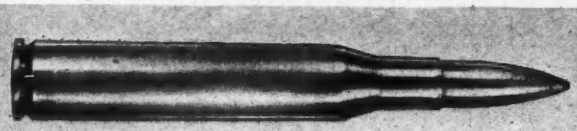
Then came the open season and the first buck. He was a good 'un, big and fat, and really traveling, going quartering away from me, bouncing through short manzanita brush, out there about 150 yards. I caught him in the sights at the top of a bounce. One second he was a live deer, chock-full of bounce and go. The next, he was dead in the air. He hit like a sack of wheat thrown off a wagon.

The bullet had hit high up in the right flank, driving through toward the left shoulder where I dug it out when I butchered the deer. One up and one down. Could I expect this sort of killing power regularly? I knew that one clean kill did not mean a thing. It was the old reliable average that would tell the story.

The average was there. Over close to three dozen deer which I've personally bagged with the .270 and dozens more I've seen dropped by the same caliber in the hands of other hunters, the average has held up. Get me right. There never was a gun that could be fired off shoulder that would give all clean, instantaneous one-shot kills on deer. The .270 won't do it, and neither will any of the others. But the .270 will come closer to doing it than any gun I ever used, and I've used most of 'em at one time or another.

For western hunting in the big open country where really long-range shots come up very frequently, the .270 is in a class by itself. Using the 130 grain load, a .270 can be sighted in at 300 yards and give an assurance of hits with a center hold, up to 350 yards. The 100 grain load will do the same and with the 100 grain bullet the .270 rates as just about the best long-range varmint gun available.

I might say that for years I owned the only .270 in these parts, and it was a case of "show me" with most of the boys. This, in some measure, I managed to do, so now the .270's are thicker than the proverbial flea here in California. The idea caught on with the gang when they saw the old gun operate in the game field. The ammunition I used up demonstrating on some distant mark across some big canyon! That was what seemed to fascinate the boys at first . . . how quick the bullet got there and that amazing flat trajectory. I'd let them try it themselves, just to prove I wasn't holding high. Then they'd try a shot or two with their old dog-leg .30-30 or .32 Special. And they'd end up talking to themselves.



The .270 Winchester is noted for high speed and quick kills. Both factors are vital to big-game hunters, and they are responsible for the rifle's popularity with mountain-scarred veterans who hunt deer, sheep, antelope, goat, caribou, and black bear. But, while the .270 is not a squirrel rifle, neither is it an elk rifle.

The .270 develops a high initial velocity with both its 100 and 130 grain loads; and the high bullet coefficient and good sectional density of both of these Spitzer bullets help to sustain that high velocity. All of us realize that a long, sharp-pointed, streamlined bullet of small diameter encounters less air resistance than a short, blunt, or flatnosed bullet of equal weight; so, from the ballistic standpoint, the 100 and 130 grain .270 bullets are all to the good. The only commercial loads that whip along at a faster clip are the pointed forty-eight grain .220 Swift, and the 110 grain .30-'06, neither of which I would choose for big-game shooting. At ranges slightly in excess of 300 yards, and the 100 grain .270 load is even faster than the amazing Swift.

The real value of flat trajectory and short time of bullet flight shows up only in the game fields. My own experiences tend to show that I can connect far oftener with the .270 than with the .30-'06, and my experiences jibe with those of my correspondents. Hundreds of old-timers look upon the .270 as the one best bet for long-range shooting at all big game under elk and moose, and they say it's dynamite even for these huge beasts except when large shoulder or hip bones are encountered.

The bullet drop of the 130 grain load is so small that there is no excuse for missing the vital area of a big-game animal up to 375 yards when the rifle is zeroed for 250 yards. On one occasion, with my sights set for 200 yards, I scored three hits in as many shots at a mule deer at 425 measured yards, and it takes a keen rifle to duplicate that performance.

To the big-game hunter, killing power transcends in importance any other quality found in hunting rifles. The killing power of the .270 is superb. No other commercial cartridge can equal its record for having slapped horizontal in the blinking of an eye, with a single shot, as large a percentage of deer, sheep, goat, antelope, caribou, and black bear. It has accounted for hundreds of elk and moose and big bear, too, although it's far from perfect for such huge beasts.

Choose a .270 Winchester and with any "hunter's luck" at all, you'll get all the game the law allows!—MONROE H. GOODE.

At various turkey shoots I convinced others, particularly at a running deer shoot. That really "fotched" 'em. I got my three turks and was barred. A hunting pal borrowed the gun, got three turks in four shots and he was done. Then they barred the gun. It was that old slashing velocity that did it, of course, cutting the necessary lead way down which naturally made for more accurate shooting.

Now the old Model 54 is about done. It is the first model the Winchester people put out with that low-combed stock. And the old shooting eye just ain't what it used to be, so I don't do so well with iron sights any more. Got to go to a telescope and that old Model 54 hasn't a high enough comb to make for the best holding with a scope. So, it will have to be a new Model 70 as soon as the present high prices begin to moderate a little, and I'll dress the new gun up with a good scope and be all set again.

Human nature is funny. One of the boys who scoffed loudest and longest at my preachments came tearing out to the cabin one evening, so bedazzled he could hardly talk straight. He had a brand-new Model 70 in .270 with a Weaver 330 on it. He had a target he'd shot at 100 yards after sighting in the scope, from rest of course. He had a five-shot group you could hide under a quarter. I know that five shots don't tell everything, but they tell something. This boy was almost inarticulate with joy. He'd been shooting a .30 automatic. All he could do was stare at that group and gulp. There isn't enough money to get that .270 away from him now.

The .270 came up the hard way. A new cartridge, it had to stand or fall on its merits, in competition with a whole flock of accepted and popular loads of long standing. And it came through on merit alone. It sounded good, it looked good, and it is good. It is better than good. It is outstanding.

Nor has it won its spurs merely as a deer gun. It has killed every kind of big game on the North American continent, and killed well. In time, along with its other commercial loads, will come one of about 160 grains, properly designed and of fine velocity. Some hunters are already handloading such a cartridge for heavy game, and it leaves absolutely nothing to be desired. The present 150 grain commercial load isn't all it should be, mainly because of a poor bullet design.

How accurate is the .270? Well, in a hunting arm of about eight and one-quarter pounds, with commercial loads, it has been my experience that it has a slight edge on the .30-'06 in the same weight gun, shooting commercial ammunition. From a portable elbow and muzzle rest, using a 130 grain commercial load and a 2½-power hunting telescope, I have personally shot at 100 yards five-shot groups which a silver half dollar would completely cover. And a half dollar measures about one and three-sixteenths inches in diameter.

The .270 is a high-intensity load. Which means, of course, a bolt-action arm. At least, so far, the bolt action is the only one in which the .270 is available. The future may bring something else, but that is in the laps of the gods and the gun designers. Private gunsmiths have produced special Magnum .270's, which make an already superlative caliber more super.

The Model 54 Winchester, in which the .270 made its debut, has now been refined into the Model 70 Winchester which is, without doubt, just about the finest bolt-action sporting arm ever produced by anyone, anywhere, at any time. It is not a military arm made over. It is an arm specifically designed and built for hunting. As such, it stands without a peer.

From Alaska to Mexico you can hear 'em rave about the .270. Every one of them just about swears he owns the finest-shooting big-game hunting rifle extant. They'll rave about its gorgeous accuracy, about that marvelous flat trajectory, about the amazing killing power at any practical range. And with perfect justification, believe me! The .270 Winchester has what it takes. ◆ ◆ ◆

Tricks of the Movie Marksmen

(Continued from page 14)

The gun was made in the Republic special effects workshop, under the direction of Howard Lydecker. When the war made it impossible for the studio to obtain modern firearms for film work, Lydecker's craftsmen constructed many prop rifles and revolvers. All the serviceable Springfields, Enfields, and other modern military firearms owned by Hollywood studios were turned over to California State Guard units.

Wade's air gun has a smoothbore barrel mounted on a specially carved stock. It has a bead front and a sporting rear sight. The gun shoots the lightweight capsules with extreme accuracy up to fifty feet. When shooting farther than that outdoors, the wind is likely to take the light missiles slightly off their course. Wade has hit objects over a hundred feet away, but can't guarantee to burst a capsule within an inch of a player's hand at that distance, as he will at thirty feet. There is no object in using the gun at distances of more than thirty feet, as the prime objective is to photograph the harmless missiles striking, mostly in close-up shots. As the capsule bursts it makes a small dust shower, in much the same manner as a bullet does when striking a dusty surface.

The movie air gun has been used to knock off players' hats. Wade has hit a revolver held in an actor's hand, making it appear, as the gun was dropped, that a real bullet had struck it. His fake bullets have struck within inches of players hiding behind trees, rocks, and tables. He has done the usual sharpshooter's trick of knocking a cigarette out of a person's mouth.

The gun makes very little noise when firing—in fact, less than some ordinary pneumatic rifles. Wade shoots his harmless pellets at or near players from out of camera range. He is now designing a new automatic air gun that will send out an instantaneous stream of capsule bullets to get machine-gun photographic effects. He can get a fair machine-gun effect with his present gun, by having the camera go at slow-motion speed, while he twirls the cylinder and pulls the trigger as fast as possible. ◆ ◆ ◆

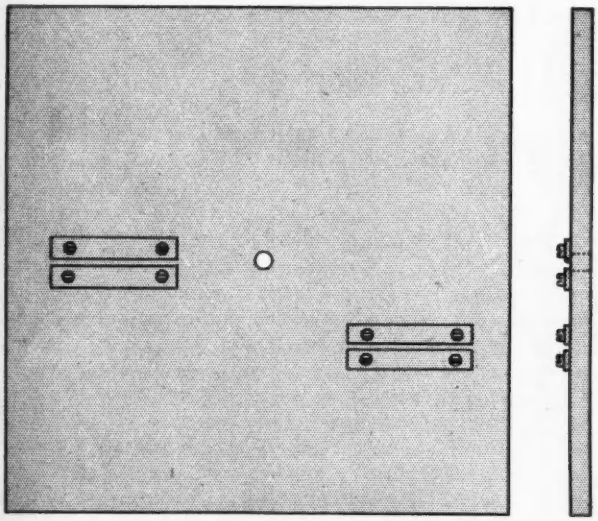
A MACHINE REST FOR THE .45

By HOBART S. WHITE

DURING THE WAR SOME EXPERIMENTAL SHOOTING was done with .45 Colt automatic pistols which had been checked with a sight-aligning gauge to determine if the line of sight was parallel with the bore. Unfortunately, only a few target shooters with long experience made groups small enough to have much meaning in comparing the point of aim with the center of the group. In fact, most shooters, including Army and Navy officers, could not always hit the Army twenty-five-yard target after firing a few rounds, mostly as a result of flinching. Quoting from Hatcher's *Textbook of Pistols and Revolvers*, page 170: "It would seem that the obvious solution would be to use a machine rest for testing the accuracy of all pistols and revolvers, but unfortunately this is not possible because no satisfactory machine rest for heavy-caliber handguns has ever been devised." In view of this need, I have devised a rest for holding the .45 caliber automatic Colt pistol while test firing it.

A photograph of this device is shown. When firing from it only the thumb and forefinger are used for squeezing, as illustrated in the picture above. One group I fired at twenty-five yards using the rest grouped at point of aim. The group measured one-half inch vertically and one and five-eighths inches horizontally. However, a maximum spread of about three inches is more normal for the gun and ammunition used.

The device was made from scraps of Dural, an aluminum alloy. Plates one-quarter inch thick were sawed and filed, as shown, to replace the grips, but extending downward about one inch, where they are riveted to one-inch angle Dural with one-eighth-inch wall thickness. Care must be taken in fitting the plates to the pistol to get the holes exactly spaced so that they are a snug fit over the stock screw bushings, which are strong enough to take the strain from recoil. The stock screws hold the plates on but do not take any other strain. Projections, made from short pieces of one-inch angle Dural, were riveted to the rear end of each piece of the angle Dural as shown. At the front, a piece of Dural one-quarter by one-half by three and one-quarter inches was riveted to the left one-inch angle but not fastened to the other piece. In its center is an elevating adjusting screw and a lock nut. Both sides of the gadget are made similar in shape and size for symmetry of weight, as extra weight on one side would affect recoil and grouping.



Left rear base and forward elevation screw of the rest pictured at the top of the page fit in the two grooves on this steel plate. If the plate is rotated to align the pistol and target correctly before the first shot, no adjustments are necessary for subsequent firing

The gadget may be used in conjunction with the steel plate shown in the sketch at the left. Strips of steel one-eighth by one-half inch are fastened on top of the plate as shown so that the grooves formed between them will leave about .001 inch clearances for the projection on the left one-inch angle and for the elevation adjusting screw. The screw should have the threads turned off at the end where it fits in the groove. A hole is drilled in the center of the plate for bolting it to a suitable bench or table. This allows rotation of the plate. When the steel plate is securely mounted, no sighting is necessary after the initial lining up of the gun and target. Simply put the gadget in the grooves and squeeze with thumb and forefinger, letting the pistol and holder recoil together.

The gadget should be useful for testing either ammunition or pistols for accuracy. It could safely be used for proof firing by placing a steel shield back of it and using a remote-control device for the firing.

Grouping appears to be a little lower than when firing from the hand. When fired from the hand the pistol tends to rotate about a point near the center of gravity of the pistol and the hand, but when fired from the rest it tends to rotate about a line through the rear supports of the one-inch angle. Pressure, exerted downward from the rear supports when the gun is fired, is great enough to make impressions in hardwood. It is believed that if short rods were projected from the centers of the grip plates and rested on supports built up from the steel plate, the pistol and rest would tend to rotate about this higher line of support and group more nearly as it does when fired from the hand. ♣ ♣ ♣

SNIPING RIFLES

CONCLUSION: SWITZERLAND, RUSSIA, JAPAN, UNITED STATES

By C. H. HOWELL, Jr.

IN AMERICA IT IS CONSIDERED almost an elementary necessity to mount rifle telescopes as close to the bore of the rifle as possible, and examples of low mounts, bridge mounts, turret mounts, side-swinging mounts, and similar attachments have appeared in the advertisements in sporting magazines for years. Most of them prevent clip loading, and most of them require that the bolt handle be tortured into shapes and forms of which Dali might be proud.

Colonel Whelen's book, *Telescopic Rifle Sights*, published in 1936, illustrates a typical high-sighted German hunting rifle on page 76 as the "horrible example." I have often wondered if the actual practice of that theory of low-mounted telescopes is true, and if it is why the Germans kept right on making their mounts so awfully high? Could it be that they just didn't get the word? I doubt it.

Now that I have raised the question of telescope height over the barrel, I can tactfully withdraw from the issue by describing the sniping rifle used by the Swiss Army, for it has a built-in telescope that is almost parallel to the axis of the bore in the horizontal plane. Maybe the good word did spread at that!

The Swiss have had the Schmidt-Rubin rifle with them for a long time. During its career the barrel has become shorter and the length of the receiver has been reduced, but it is the same basic design that Major Rubin developed long before the first World War.

The rifle, now called the "Mosqueton, M 36," has a twenty-three-and-three-quarter-inch barrel, and weighs eight and one-half pounds complete with telescope and mount. The action consists of a conventionally shaped receiver with locking abutments in the rear receiver bridge. The bolt handle operates from a tunnel along the right-hand side of the receiver, and cams the bolt open when a straight pull is exerted on it. Pushing the handle forward closes and rotates the bolt. Straight-pull actions usually develop extraction difficulties under adverse conditions because of lack of power on the primary extracting movement, but the Swiss seem satisfied with their rifle, and their ability to use it.

By U.S. standards, the Schmidt-Rubin straight pull violates every concept of what a rifle should look like, and how it should operate. It seems a strange weapon to be the basic equipment of another "nation of riflemen."

At any rate, the Swiss engineers were thinking when they designed this telescope and mount. As shown in Figure 9, the mount is attached to the left side of the receiver as an integral part of the telescope. The telescope tube is about six inches long and five-eighths of an inch in diameter. The front portion of the telescope has a prism head that rotates about the axis of the tube, and when not in use folds down against the side of the stock where it is protected to some degree from falls or knocks. For use, the head is rotated clockwise; it snaps into position about an inch away from the side of the receiver. The reticule of the telescope contains a picket post with two converging cross wires slanting towards the top of the picket at an angle of approximately 40 degrees. Elevation changes are made by moving the small slider up or down the graduated ramp on

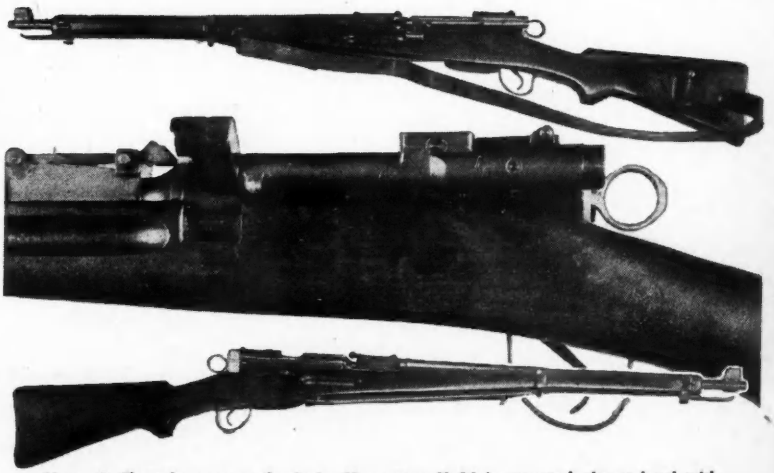


Figure 9: The telescope on the Swiss Mosqueton M 36 is mounted almost level with the bore axis. The prismatic front portion, plainly seen in the center picture, folds against the stock when not in use and is rotated clockwise into position for use

top of the telescope tube, which in turn elevates or depresses the telescope tube about its trunnion on the receiver. There is no provision for windage adjustment, so the Swiss mountain rifleman must fall back on his ability to "hold off" for lateral correction of his shots. The telescope is four power, and the field of view is about 8 degrees.

Figure 10 (above): The Russian Mossin-Nagant 7.62 mm., a sniping rifle in use as early as 1916
Figure 11 (right): This Russian in camouflage clothing is equipped with a later model semi-automatic rifle with telescope mount similar to that used on the German KAR 43 weapon

The iron sights are always available whether or not the telescope is in use. The rifle is neither bulky nor awkward; no special tools are required to adjust the telescope. It cannot be lost without losing the rifle too, and the optics of the telescope are adequate for sniping use. The Swiss 7.5 mm. cartridge, loaded with a bullet weighing 154 grains, fired at a velocity of 2720 feet per second, is a fine cartridge. A Swiss sniper can well feel a sense of superiority over the rest of his European companions-in-arms. He has a real sniping rifle.

It begins to appear that the mountain folk have better rifles than the lowlanders, so let's see what the Swedish Army thinks is a good sniping rifle. Their standard rifle is now the ten-shot gas-operated semiautomatic Ljungman, Model 1942, but for a sniping rifle they use the German KAR 98k Mauser, with side mount, nearly identical to the one illustrated by Figure 4 (Part One, April, 1947). There is nothing new here at all, but we are back in the high-mount territory again.

Our Allies, the Russians, produced some novel weapons during the war, often under difficulties that would seem insurmountable, and they evidently had a high regard for the value of sniping rifles. Before the war, propaganda pictures were sent to this country from Russia, showing Russian small-bore rifle clubs and shooting societies organized under the direction of the government. Other press pictures showed units of marching Russian infantrymen completely equipped with telescopic-sighted rifles.

Despite the time and money it cost the Russians, some of this training program must have been worth while, especially during their guerrilla operations against the Germans. However, if any of their riflemen had advanced ideas about the construction of sniping rifles they never put them into production, for their snipers' rifle is just as crude as it was in 1916—the old Mossin-Nagant 7.62 mm. Russian that the Director of Civilian Marksmanship used to sell. Many thousands of these rifles were made in this country during World War I, and are still in use. The competent Russian soldier in Figure 10 is shown in the act of aiming one of these rifles fitted with a telescope. The sight is either three and one-half or four power, with internal windage and elevation adjustment much like that on the Lyman Alaskan; it has a 30 mm. objective lens with a field view of approximately 8 degrees.

The mount is a simple bracket, fastened over the receiver ring by means of a dovetail base. The mount places the telescope almost three and one-half inches above the bore. Another horrible example, no doubt—but it is the principal sniping rifle of a powerful military nation. Some of the Russian carbines were fitted with a similar but smaller telescope mounted in a forged one-piece bracket, likewise high, and placed so that it would seem to prohibit shooting in the prone position.

Later models of Russian semi- and full-automatic rifles have undercut recesses along the bottom sides of the receivers for attaching a telescope mount somewhat similar in design to those used on the German KAR 43. The Russian soldier hiding behind the barbed wire in Figure 11 is operating one of these, and shows rather effectively the value of protective clothing.

The Japanese seem to have shown more originality in the

design of their sniping equipment than any of the other nations, not only in the design of their sighting equipment, but also in the clothing and other equipment of their soldiers trained for sniping work. They had special camouflage clothing, helmets, and other aids long before we did.

Following the usual military practice of declaring their service rifle good enough in accuracy, endurance, and general suitability, they set about to improve the sighting characteristics. A bracket, having a wide vertical dovetail cut into it, was securely fastened to the left side of the receiver. Six screws hold this bracket against the side of the receiver—the designers weren't taking any chances with the bracket coming loose.

Years of experience in the tropics gave them a very clear picture of the action of moisture and corrosion on small, delicate metal parts, and to some extent the damage done to optical instruments by fungus. Therefore, they designed their rifle telescope to eliminate so far as possible any openings for the entrance of foreign material into the telescope tube.

The telescope tube is about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and six and one-half inches long, with an objective lens approximately three-sixteenths of an inch in diameter. The telescope is less powerful than is ordinarily true of sniping equipment, being only two and one-half power. The mount is simply a lug formed with a dovetail which mates with the bracket on the receiver. A large thumb lever operates on an eccentric shaft and cams a tapered metal block against the bracket when rotated. Since the telescope and the mount are integral and offset, the rifle may be loaded with a standard service clip containing five 6.5 mm. cartridges.

The field of view is restricted by the etched reticule inside the tube which has an elevation scale graduated from 0 to 1500 yards by increments of 100 yards. The elevation scale is compensated for drift, which causes a tendency to cant the rifle when aiming through the telescope. It also has deflection scales in mils, arranged as shown in Figure 12. If the reticule had been graduated for 200, 300, and 600 yards only, without the deflection scales, or at most a single space of them, its usefulness would have been greatly increased. Actually, there are so many lines and figures to look at that it is difficult to pay any attention to the target at all.

There are a few other sniping rifles used by smaller countries, such as the Belgian Mauser with a high-mounted German-type telescope, and the old French Model 1921 sniper's telescope mounted on the left side of the ancient French 8 mm. Lebel rifle, Model 1886/93, but they offer nothing of interest to riflemen, and not much improvement to their user's marksmanship.

Perhaps no other country, with the exception of Switzerland, has for so many years encouraged civilian marksmanship training as has the United States. Through the National Rifle Matches, and the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Camp Perry became a mecca for civilian riflemen from all states, as well as an attractive summer camp for many servicemen. The formalized mass training system for marksmanship used in training camps during this war was perfected through the years at Camp Perry. Many matches were fired at long ranges of 600, 800, 900, and 1,000 yards. It would seem that a nation as seriously interested in accurate rifle fire as the United States appears to be would have been able to design and develop a sniper's rifle embodying nearly all of the requisites of that rifle, and would have placed it in the hands of the men who might reasonably be expected to use it during wartime—those same men who were trained as riflemen and rifle instructors at government expense at Camp Perry. Surely no better opportunity was ever offered than the years between 1925 and 1940.

Suppose we examine the first sniper's rifle issued to our forces during this war, and see for ourselves what use was made of the experience of thousands of shooters from all parts of the country in designing this rifle. Shown in Figure 13, it is designated the U. S. Rifle, Caliber .30 M1903A4. Yes, sir, it does look familiar, for it is practically the same rifle that was carried through the Meuse-Argonne and kept out of the mud at Chateau-Thierry. There are some parts like the floor plate and trigger guard, upper band and lower band, and a few others that are made out of metal stampings and formings, instead of being milled out of forgings, and the stock has been modified a little, and the bolt handle bent some more, with a little ground off the side to keep it from striking the telescope, but otherwise it is just about the same old rifle. Some of the barrels have two-groove instead of four-groove rifling, but this was a wartime measure to save production time.

The telescope mount is a military version of the Redfield Junior mount. The telescope is the Weaver 330, likewise an old friend in the sporting goods stores. There is no point in describing the rifle, for thousands of pages have been devoted to that historic piece, but how it happened to appear during this war as a sniping rifle is another verse of the old song, "Too Little, Too Late."

The outfit has numerous faults from a *military* standpoint. The telescope tube is too thin to withstand hard knocks. The reticule is not held securely, often coming loose in the tube. The internal windage and elevation adjustment screws work loose and do not have graduated dials, hence the rifle must either be "shot in" each time the settings are changed, or it must be bore sighted. The lenses are not adequately protected. The mount it not strong enough for military use, and the fixed base often works loose. The dovetail on the front mounting ring is too small and wears, allowing the telescope to change zero, while rear locking screws

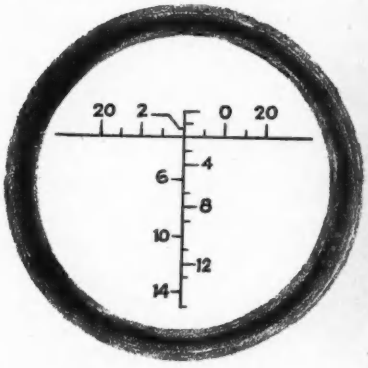


Figure 12: The reticule, enclosed in the telescope tube of the Japanese 6.5 mm. Model 97 rifle, is too obscured by figures and scales to permit the easy range estimations necessary with a scope made integral with the mount and having no windage adjustment

do not show accurately their position. The rear mounting ring is too soft, and the windage adjusting screws bite into it, causing wear and misalignment of the telescope. A very serious fault (in a military mount) is that its low position prohibits the use of the service cartridge clip, thus reducing the rifle to a single-loader after the magazine has been exhausted. The low position of the mount makes the insertion of single cartridges difficult if the sniper is wearing gloves, as he would be in wintertime. The low mount prohibits the use of iron sights, unless the telescope is removed, and on this rifle there are NO iron sights! A slight accident to the telescope can leave the sniper with no means of aiming his rifle other than by pointing it.

Figure 13 (at left): The U. S. M1903A4, little changed from the original Springfield, uses the Weaver 330 telescope and a version of the Redfield Junior mount

Figure 14 (at right): The Garand is fitted as a sniper's arm by the addition of a Lyman Alaskan telescope and a leather boot-type cheek pad to raise the shooter's eye to telescope level

Carefully sighted in, with skillful handling, the rifle will shoot accurately—probably more accurately than any other sniper's rifle except some of the Mausers made during the early part of the war, and it will equal them. The M1903A4 is the least cumbersome of all of the sniper's rifles, and nearly the lightest in weight. Its defects resulted from a hasty utilization of commercial articles for much more rigorous service than that for which they were intended; and, as in so many cases, "we had to do the best we could with what we had."

The U. S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1, commonly called the Garand, after its inventor, has been fitted with enough attachments and adapters to suit it for almost all of the jobs that may fall to the lot of a combat infantryman. It has provision for a bayonet, and a special sight and grenade launcher may be added for shooting offensive grenades against personnel and antitank grenades against vehicles. Some of the rifles were modified overseas to have shortened barrels for use by paratroopers and a few rifles were modified to fire automatically. These latter modifications were not made standard, and usually were the result of efforts by individual soldiers.

By the addition of a telescope mount, a telescope sight, and a telescope, a cheek pad, and a flash hider, the M1 rifle becomes the M1C, the standard sniper's rifle of our army. It is shown in Figure 14. The mount is attached to the left side of the receiver and is a military version of the Griffin & Howe double-lever side mount. This mount is simply a bracket screwed to the receiver and provided with a long dovetail. The telescope base contains the two mounting rings for the telescope and two locking levers which clamp the telescope base to the receiver bracket. The entire assembly of the mount and telescope are offset to the left of the center line of the receiver for two important reasons; the first, to permit loading the eight-shot "en bloc" clip of the M1 rifle, and, second, to allow the use of the iron sights.

The telescope is identified as the "Sight, Telescopic, M81," but it actually is the Lyman Alaskan Model. A standard cross hair reticule is ordinarily issued with it in place of the usual picket posts and horizontal cross bars found on most others.

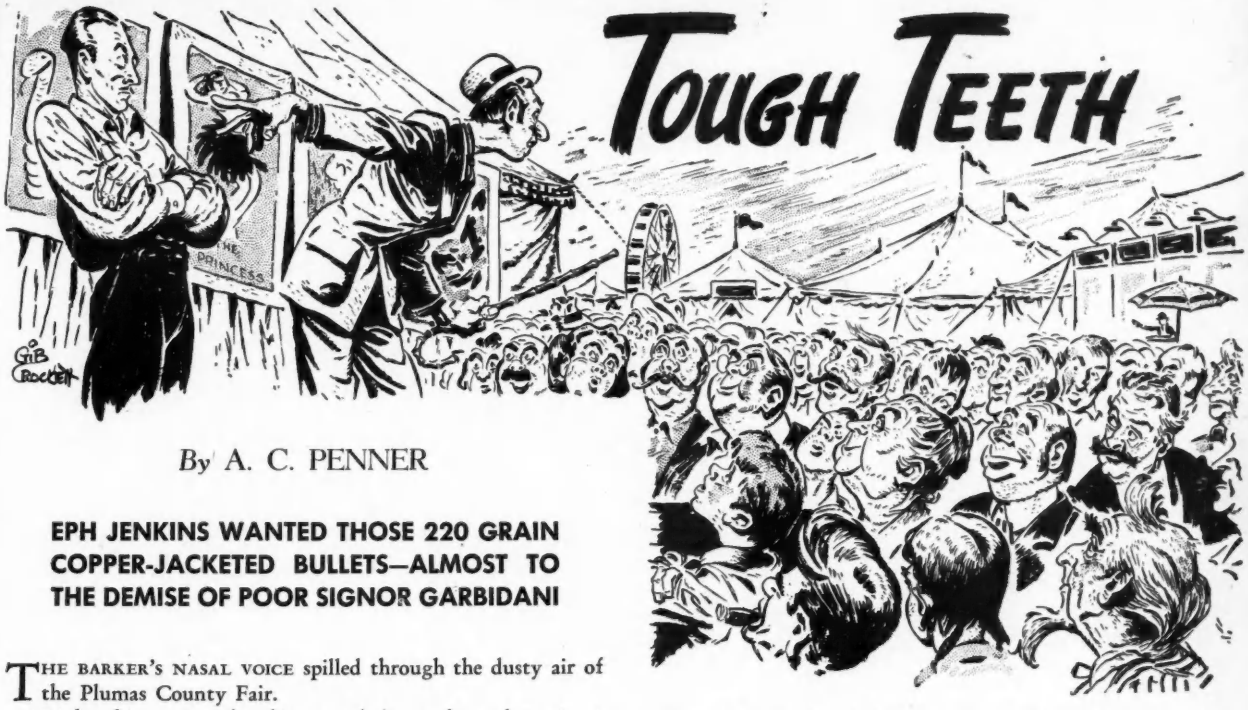
Since some sniping is expected during the early hours of the morning and at dusk, the M1C rifle has been equipped with a small flash hider which is fastened to the muzzle of the rifle by a bracket similar to that used to attach the grenade launcher. This hider reduces the flash to some extent, but does not eliminate it, nor does it reduce the smoke emitted from the rifle. An unfortunate feature of the hider is that it reduces the accuracy of the rifle. The reduction in accuracy is caused, of course, by the relatively loose fit of the hider to the barrel of the rifle and its method of attachment.

In order to permit a soldier of normal physical proportions to see through the telescope sight and still keep his face supported by the rifle stock, it was necessary either to make special stocks for the sniper's rifles or to modify the present issue stock. Many experiments were made to determine what kind of stock adapter could be placed on the rifle. The one finally selected was one of the "lace on" boot type, of leather, supplied with several inserts that the individual could mold to suit himself.

The weight, length, and thickness of the M1C rifle seem excessive; complete with telescope, mount, sling, pad, and flash hider the rifle weighs twelve and one-half pounds. If it is equipped for an occasional job of grenade launching, the weight is increased to nearly thirteen pounds. The length overall, with flash hider attached, is a mere forty-six inches. This makes an awkward bundle for a sniper who may be expected to do a lot of creeping and crawling or climbing during his business hours. The thickness of the rifle through the receiver is so great that it is clumsy to carry in one hand unless carried by the sling—upside down.

It is apparent that the military idea of a sniper's rifle is the standard rifle of that country fitted with a telescope sight, with the idea of improving the slow-fire accuracy of that rifle. Making enough rifles of one kind during wartime is a hard enough task without complicating the issue by additional requirements for special equipment. Special weapons require special courses and extra instructors. Battle casualties reduce the number of men trained in the use of special weapons, and without these men the extra value of the weapons is lost. Therefore, a long-standing rule has been to use as little special equipment as possible. All of these are good reasons. They were good reasons for not adopting percussion rifles in place of flintlock muskets, and they delayed the adoption of breech-loading rifles for years and years. They delayed the adoption of small-bore high-velocity rifles for many years, and kept machine guns in an orphan stage for nearly as long.

And yet, each past war has shown the need for some men who can hit individual targets at longer range than their comrades—men who can hunt their targets and bring them down. A great deal could be done now, during peacetime, to insure that a rifle of suitable accuracy and reliability would be ready for the time when it will be required. ♦ ♦ ♦



TOUGH TEETH

By A. C. PENNER

EPH JENKINS WANTED THOSE 220 GRAIN COPPER-JACKETED BULLETS—ALMOST TO THE DEMISE OF POOR SIGNOR GARBIDANI

THE BARKER'S NASAL VOICE spilled through the dusty air of the Plumas County Fair.

"Right this way, right this way, ladies and gentlemen! A preview of the wonders within ab-solute-ly free! Signor Garbidani is about to demonstrate the trick which has never been duplicated in the entire history of the globe!"

A good-natured mountain crowd began drifting toward the strident, insistent voice which came from one corner of the squared horseshoe of carnival tents. The odor of hot dogs, popcorn, cheap perfume, and scantily sprinkled sawdust mingled with the red dust of the valley.

Atop the tiny platform in front of the tent stood the barker.

Eph Jenkins, who could make a living with a deer rifle, spat a quid of tobacco in the dust and stepped up to the barker holding a Krag rifle

To his right, as far away as the platform permitted, was a dark, handsome man. His muscular arms were folded across a white silk shirt. He wore wine-colored trousers, sashed and close-fitted at the hips, and bright, patent leather shoes. No hat covered the gloss of his almost blue-black hair. He viewed the crowd calmly, with a slight disdain—or perhaps that impression was caused by the thin, straight mustache.

The red-faced barker had his crowd now and a note of satisfaction crept into his voice as he extolled the marvels of Signor Garbidani. The crowd was informed of the Signor's extensive travels, his study of magic in strange corners of the world, his baffling performances before the elite of three continents.

The barker continued, with rising inflection. "And now, you good people of Plumas County are about to witness the most astounding, most breath-taking, most awe-inspiring demonstration the world has ever seen!"

The barker stooped and picked up a rifle that was leaning against the back of the platform.

"Here in my hand, I hold a high-powered rifle. I want a rifleman to step from the crowd." He paused.

There was a momentary hush as each man looked at his neighbor in sudden self-consciousness. Then some of the bolder ones shoved forward a lean, lank individual clad in loose, untidy pants and blue cotton shirt.

"Eph Jenkins ought to do, Perfessor, he can make a livin' with a deer rifle!" The crowd laughed knowingly.

The man called Eph Jenkins clambered slowly to the platform. As he did so, he spat a quid of tobacco into the dust, wiping his mouth with the back of his sleeve as he straightened. He stood with hands in his pockets, obviously embarrassed, a small and slightly foolish grin twitched at his lips. The barker regarded him with great good humor.

"Do you consider yourself a rifleman?" he asked loudly for the benefit of the delighted audience.

"Oh, I guess I'm fair to middlin'," said Eph.

"Do you know what kind of a rifle this is?"

"Yeah, it's a Krag. Used to be a U. S. army gun. I got one myself."

"Good, you do know something about guns. Now what is this?" The barker pulled a box from his coat pocket.

"Looks like a box of shells," said Eph.

"Suppose you open the box to see if there is anything wrong with the shells," said the barker, handing the box to Eph.

Eph took a cartridge from the box, shook it next to his ear and squinted at it closely.

"Nope," he said, "looks like a new box of Winchester shells. Two hundred and twenty grain bullet with soft nose and copper jacket. Good bullet for deer."

"All right, Mr. Jenkins, I want you to select three cartridges from that box at random and load this gun."

Eph Jenkins was no longer clumsy as he removed the cartridges and slipped them into the side magazine of the rifle. He worked a cartridge into firing position with practiced ease and set the safety.

"Now, Mr. Jenkins." The barker turned and pointed to a stack of railroad ties resting at the bottom of a hill not more than fifty yards in back of the tent. "I want to see if you can break that dinner plate sitting in the middle of those ties! Your rifle is sighted so that the point of impact is the center of that round front bead."

The crowd quickly shifted in order to watch the target through a roped-off lane between the tents. Eph Jenkins raised the gun, took slow aim and fired. The plate shattered and disappeared.

"Good shootin', Eph," someone shouted. Eph scraped his foot on the platform.

"Shucks, that ain't hard to hit," he said.

"Splendid shooting!" agreed the barker. "Now I want you to remove the two cartridges from the gun and allow one of these gentlemen to scratch his initials in the soft lead point with this nail file."

Eph slipped the shells out and handed them over. He stood back holding the rifle in the crook of his left arm, his right hand in his pocket for want of a better place to put it. A willing onlooker quickly scratched the two bullets and under the direction of the barker, handed them to Eph. Eph reloaded the gun, worked the bolt and safety, and waited. The barker turned to the crowd.

"Now I'm going to ask Mr. Jenkins and you people whether or not you consider that Mr. Jenkins is holding a rifle in his hands loaded with a cartridge capable of instantly killing a man at 100 feet." The crowd murmured assent and Eph nodded emphatically. The barker smiled and paused for full dramatic effect. Then he spoke.

"Now Signor Garbidani will take his place fifty feet this side of those railroad ties, facing us. I shall ask Mr. Jenkins to shoot directly at his teeth when the Signor drops his handkerchief! I must caution Mr. Jenkins to be very careful not to miss or we shall witness a tragedy . . . Signor Garbidani is going to catch this lethal bullet in his strong . . . white . . . teeth!"

A startled hush fell over the mountain crowd as Signor Garbidani walked with dignity to the appointed spot and turned, his arms again folded. Eph Jenkins' mouth was open. His eyes were flicking from the barker to Signor Garbidani.

"All right, Mr. Jenkins, we're ready," snapped the barker. Eph did not move. The barker smiled.

. . . but Signor Garbidani had fainted

"Now I realize your natural distrust of this phenomenon, Mr. Jenkins, but rest assured. You do your part and let us worry about Signor Garbidani."

Eph still did not move. The barker became a bit irked. His words became faster and more forcible. They had no effect on Eph Jenkins. This would not do. It would spoil the thing to break in a new rube.

"You are afraid of killing me . . . no?" Signor was speaking. Eph Jenkins nodded . . . tried to find his voice.

"But YOU should not be afraid. You are the good marksman. It is I who should be afraid. But I have done this thing before and often. And I have not the fear. Now let us continue with the exhibition!"

At last Eph began to talk. He turned to the barker.

"Well you see, Mister, I'm not so sure about this thing. I thought I was just gonna bust them plates. I didn't know you wanted me to crack this guy in the teeth. When I told you I had a gun like this, I wasn't lyin'. Trouble is I can't afford to buy ammunition as good as this stuff you have. I got some old army issue stuff and I file the hard points a little to make 'em open up. So when Pete here handed me back those two shells, I happened to have my hand on a couple of my own shells in my pocket. I guess it wasn't quite honest but I didn't think there was any use wastin' good huntin' ammunition on target shootin' at fifty yards, so without thinkin' much about it, I kinda slipped my own shells in the gun . . . and put the new ones in my pocket. Now that you ask me to do this kinda shootin' I ain't so sure I did the right thing. But if Mister Garbidani here wants me to go ahead now, I guess I can."

He turned for his answer but Signor Garbidani had fainted. ◆ ◆ ◆

'47 NATIONAL MATCHES

As we go to press, the NRA Executive Committee announces that the National Rifle and Pistol Matches will be held at Camp Perry, Ohio, in 1947. The matches are tentatively scheduled in August, the smallbore from the 4th to the 9th and the pistol from the 11th to the 16th. Do not write for match programs until an announcement that they are available appears in THE RIFLEMAN.

Short Varmint Scopes

By AL BARR

FOR YEARS VARMINT SHOOTERS have wondered why a short, compact target scope with enlarged ocular and objective lens has not been made in this country. In prewar years they could get the very popular Zeiss Zielsechs made with internal adjustment for elevation and a 26 mm. scope tube. But this scope required special hunting-type mounts with their rather crude windage adjustments. Until recently, with few exceptions, only made-to-order short scopes of 6X power or above were available.

The average target scope is from twenty-two to twenty-five inches in over-all length, which means considerable overhang from front and rear mounts. Why not mount a shorter scope on regular target mounts placed on the receiver bridge, putting the front one just forward of the receiver ring on the barrel where the rear scope base is normally located?

A K2.5 converted for varmint shooting by the addition of a Litschert attachment

Excessive overhang of a scope means that in the field it is liable to damage from branches and brush. Even with the flexible target mounts, a scope tube can be bent easily if the large objective end receives a slight bump, unless the forward base is placed well to the front of the barrel or as close as possible to the big objective. This was seldom done, except by knowing gunsmith-varmint shooters like Carl Nix. His individually made mounts with neat screw driver adjustment knobs leave little to be desired. These, however, are too costly for the average shooter—and who would make them for him?

The Fecker and Unertl short small-game scopes are not new, but their small three-quarter-inch objectives, in 6X or more, do not always transmit sufficient light for specialized shooting. Some shooters have installed large objective attachments on these short scopes in the attempt to adopt them for use on small game.

Early in 1942, after becoming thoroughly familiar with the Nix scope mounts, we tried to interest some manufacturer in making a similar or slightly modified mount of that type. Being unsuccessful, I personally decided to do something about a shorter scope and suitable mounts, since I needed several with dependable mounts for use on Bull Pups.

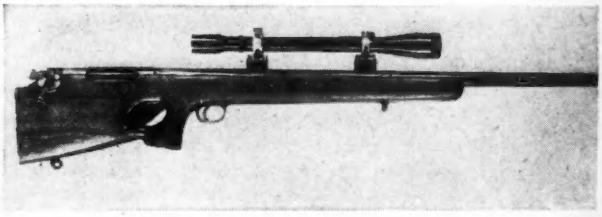
About this time during a visit to NRA Headquarters, R. A. Litschert, the Winchester (Indiana) scope maker, expressed his willingness to make a short scope and provide for it target mounts with the large projecting click knobs removed. The result was an 8X scope with one-and-one-quarter-inch objective and three-quarter-inch tube diameter. The over-all length was nineteen inches, five inches shorter than the average target scope of 8X. The mounts he supplied, named "dehorned mounts," were tried thoroughly and reviewed on page twenty-seven of the April, 1943, issue of THE RIFLEMAN. They worked well indeed and not so much later Litschert listed them for use with his varmint-type scopes.

A short time later Litschert announced his "Eagle" scopes of very short length, to be made in 4X, 6X, and 8X with enlarged objective and ocular lens. These, however, did not get in production because the needed lenses and other parts were hard to obtain during the war.

For about four years now I have been using a pilot model of the Eagle scope. It is 10X, with one-inch tube, one-and-one-half-inch objective lens, one-and-one-quarter-inch ocular, and only seventeen inches over-all length. Optically it is the equal of any 10X scope I have used but at present the cost would be too high to warrant manufacture.

Since that time the newer conversion jobs such as the Edwards and Litschert have become quite popular. These are 2½X, 3X, or 4X scopes to which is added an enlarged objective lens longer than the original focal length. The result is a good 6X, 8X, or 10X varmint scope. These combination scopes give the shooter what he wants in a short, compact scope of 6X or more. Reports now indicate that these attachments are becoming quite popular on the Weaver K2.5, K4, Leupold, G-88, Lyman Alaskan, the Texan, and other popular makes. The K2.5 with 6X attachment on one of my favorite hunting rifles has been used enough to prove its worth. There is one big shortcoming to these combination jobs: unless the optics of the original scope is good to start with, the objective attachment is sometimes not too satisfactory. Some of these attachments were reviewed on page forty-seven of the October, 1946, RIFLEMAN.

The big advantage of a combination scope is that it can be used with the original objective lens in 2½X, 3X, or 4X for



A pilot model of Litschert's varmint scope

the once-a-year big-game hunt; then the original objective lens can be replaced with the attachment, sighted in again, and the same rifle, scope, and mount are suitable for the varmint hunting season. While technically the conversion job will not give quite as good optics as a scope originally made in 6X or 8X, many shooters state that it is perfectly satisfactory.

Among the best mounts for combination scopes are the Redfield, Jr., Hill, Turner, King-Pike, and Williams. The Stith can be used also. But on Stith's Bear Cub and other scopes

special Stith mounts are needed, which means a change of the front end of the mount to compensate for the enlarged objective end. Except that they allow the use of one rifle and scope for year-round shooting, these conversion jobs might be classed as makeshift. Too, they have served well to fill a need for the varmint shooter who wants the best.

The target shooter needs fine adjustments in his scope mounts. These he has had for many years in the good target mounts. The hunter of big game does not need such close adjustments and the internal controls of the hunting scopes are adequate. But the varmint shooter has been partially neglected. He cannot get in over-the-counter purchases, scopes and mounts which are accurate, have sufficient magnification, and will hold their adjustments. Since about nine-tenths of the year even a big-game hunter is using his rifles for varmint or small-game shooting, the varmint shooter should not be overlooked. That is probably the reason some of the progressive scope manufacturers have recently announced their new "varmint scopes and mounts." This type of hunter wants a short, compact scope with the rear mount on the receiver bridge. He also wants secure, but accurate, adjustable knobless mounts.

It is interesting to note that at least three scope makers have recently announced varmint scopes and mounts similar to the type varmint hunters have been ordering custom-made for sometime. One is the Model-V, in 6X, 8X, and 10X, made by the Edwards Sight & Optical Company. It is about fifteen inches overall in length, with one-inch ocular diameter and one-and-one-quarter-inch objective. The tube diameter is three-quarter inch, and the eye relief is upward of four inches. The objective is adjustable for range, and good optics is insured. The new mounts have target-type adjustments made with a screw driver. This is the hunting mount.

At almost the same time John Unertl announced a 6X and 8X varmint hunting scope with the same dehorned-type mounts. This scope also has enlarged ocular and objective lenses with a three-quarter-inch tube. Several of these scopes have been examined and the optics seems very good.

The Fecker Woodchucker is the third varmint scope now on the market. Manufactured by J. W. Fecker, Inc., it is available in 4X, 5.5X, and 7X. The scope, which is 16 inches in length, also uses the dehorned micrometer mounts and has a 1.2-inch objective.

These progressive manufacturers, along with Litschert and his "Varmint Master" hunting scope attachment, are giving the pest shooter what he wants and needs. Undoubtedly other manufacturers will follow with scopes to take the place of some of those favorite 6X and 8X short scopes of foreign make which are no longer readily available.

One thing to remember is that the conventional position of scope bases on the barrel of the average bolt-action rifle will not place these shorter scopes far enough back over the receiver for proper eye relief, so new holes must be drilled and tapped or located correctly when the rifle is made. ◆ ◆ ◆

Velocity As a Function of Headspace

(*Continued from page* 18)

primer cup only 0.075, 0.065 inch, or 0.010 inch. As it was worked out, however, the inertia of the cartridge was great enough so that satisfactory primer functioning always resulted.

Figure 2 shows, contrary to popular belief, that increased headspace, at least under the conditions of this test, does not, in itself, result in lower velocities. In fact, the velocity increases to a maximum for an increase in headspace of some 0.030 inch. This is considerably beyond the increase encountered in normal wear of a sporting arm or even a military rifle. With the greatest headspace used, there was a very slight indication of stretched cases, about halfway to the shoulder, and no indication of primer failure. The firing pin indent appeared to be about the same throughout the test. The fired cases appeared to have their necks shortened progressively, which is made clear by Figure I. A graph of velocities, plotted as ordinants, against headspaces, plotted as abscissas, is shown in Figure II.

Just how to explain the increase in velocity is somewhat difficult. As the headspace is slowly increased from the 1.940 inches value, the bullet has a space to pass over before the ogive and sides begin to be engraved by the lands. This is right at the time when the bullet is experiencing its greatest acceleration. Thus, the bullet gains an increasing amount of momentum before the engraving and consequent retarding forces begin to act. This might account for the initial increase in velocity. Then as the headspace is pushed to extremes, the loss in velocity due to the escape of gases around the bullet before it enters and obturates the bore, more than counteracts the effect of the gain in velocity due to the increased momentum acquired before frictional forces begin to act. From then on, an increase in headspace simply results in decreased velocities.

What this series of tests would show in the case of automatic weapons is not to be surmised. Also, the Universal Receiver has no extractor, and slightly different results might be obtained if performed in an M1903, say, where the cartridge is, in a sense, held to the face of the bolt by the extractor.

Many sportsmen are too concerned with excessive headspace (that is, over the mythical limit set by the manufacturer of the gun) in dealing with used weapons. Increased headspace, even thirty or forty thousandths of an inch over maximum, does not in itself result in lower velocities. What does result, however, is the erosion of the throat and bullet seat, and that should be the first thing to check when considering a used gun, instead of yelling for a set of headspace gauges. Even then, it is possible in general to return a badly eroded gun to its original velocity by cutting off an inch or so of the chamber end, and rechambering. That is the usual procedure with Mann accuracy barrels. The barrel practically never wears out. I have seen Mann barrels with 30,000 or more rounds through them and nothing ever done to them, bring in mean radius accuracy test ammunition almost as well as when new. I have seen machine-gun barrels of both .30 and .50 caliber which were worn to the extent that no grooves or lands were detectable throughout the barrel (the appearance being much as the surface of a charred log) and through which the appropriate bullet would drop freely, the barrel diameter being about an eighth of an inch greater than the bullet diameter. Machine guns in which these barrels were mounted functioned perfectly, the cyclic rate of fire only just beginning to drop. Of course, the accuracy probably suffered (the guns described were used on function and casualty proof testing) as well as velocity, but the guns functioned all right. ◆ ◆ ◆

SAM COLT'S REPEATING PISTOL

PART I

By MAJOR B. R. LEWIS

IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN that, from the filing of his first American patent in 1836, Samuel Colt sought a Government market for the arms he had invented. That winter, as reported in the *Army and Navy Chronicle,* Colt visited Washington with one of his promotion-model pistols and demonstrated it to the President and to the Secretary of War. But between that date and the permanent establishment of his factory at Hartford, there have been many blank pages in the Colt story. In recent years the efforts of Major James E. Hicks, Messrs. Albert Foster, Jr., Jack Rohan, Belden and Haven, and currently James E. Serven have served to clear up many of the uncertainties of that period.

While the author was stationed in or near Washington for several years during and since the war, he used his spare time to dig through old records in the Ordnance Department and in the National Archives to obtain firsthand information on the Colt story. It is thought best to quote the contemporary records exactly, with a minimum of interpretation and filling in by the author. Where not quoted verbatim, the material used is from similar official sources, unless otherwise indicated. The reader will not be burdened with details already made available in the works of the authors mentioned previously.

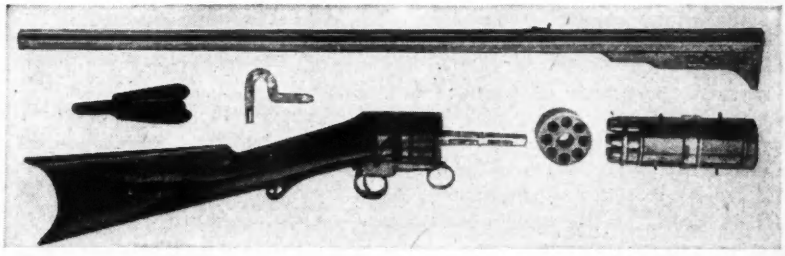


Fig. 1: Ring-trigger eight-shot Paterson Colt rifle of the type used in the Florida war. With it are accessories as supplied in case. From the author's collection

Prior to 1837, Colt had only a few promotion models to demonstrate, and these had serious defects of design. It appears that the first arms demonstrated by him to the Government, both rifle and pistol, were of caliber .34. Sam made a mistake in trying to sell his arms to the conservative Ordnance Department before their development was really completed. It was a long time before he overcame the initial prejudices thus established.

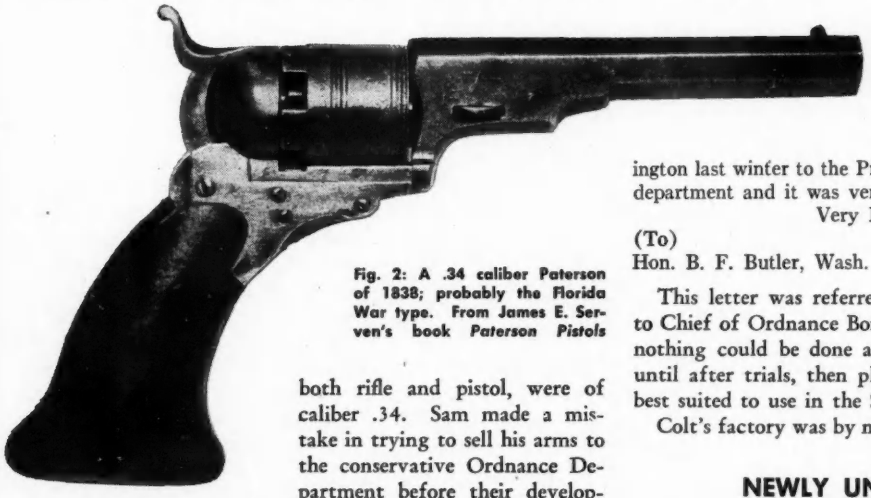


Fig. 2: A .34 caliber Paterson of 1838; probably the Florida War type. From James E. Serven's book *Paterson Pistols*

Early in 1837, the Paterson factory began to operate effectively. A letter from a member of the firm, written to a Congressman in 1837, documents one of Colt's early attempts to sell the United States on his Paterson revolvers:

New York, Jan. 10, 1837.

Dear Sir:

I have noticed the attempt of Mr. Thompson of South Carolina to introduce a Resolution in relation to the "Gun" of Cochran, Colt, and others. The patent of Mr. Colt has been transferred to a company of Gentlemen in this City and New Jersey who have erected a splendid building at Patterson (*sic*) with view of carrying on an extensive manufactory of the Gun. It is supposed that the invention of Colt is the most important one that has been made in this country for many years and it is thought it would be useful for the Government to have an experiment made by competent judges of the utility of the instrument.

I am interested in the manufactory and should be very glad if a resolution similar to Mr. Thompsons should pass. No harm to the nation and great good might result from it. We think we could furnish a quantity of the guns before the Florida War is over according to present appearances. Mr. Colt exhibited his gun at Washington last winter to the President and to the heads of the military department and it was very much admired and applauded.

Very Respectfully Yours,

(To) V. (?) Hoyt

Hon. B. F. Butler, Wash.

This letter was referred by the Military Affairs Committee to Chief of Ordnance Bomford, who replied to Mr. Butler that nothing could be done as to placing an order with Mr. Colt until after trials, then planned, to determine the breechloader best suited to use in the Service.

Colt's factory was by no means ready for the Army tests con-

NEWLY UNEARTHED FACTS IN THE STORY OF SAM COLT'S EARLIEST REPEATING FIREARMS—THE FAMED PATERSON AND WALKER REVOLVERS

ducted at West Point in 1837. However, the enterprising young inventor submitted quite a range of arms, made up by toolroom methods. The official report of the tests mentions small- and large-caliber rifles (.34 and .42), carbines, and caliber .64 smoothbore muskets. Colt later stated that he had submitted a pistol also—perhaps only for examination, as the trials were in the nature of a competition between shoulder arms. The Colt rifles then tested were the first type of the

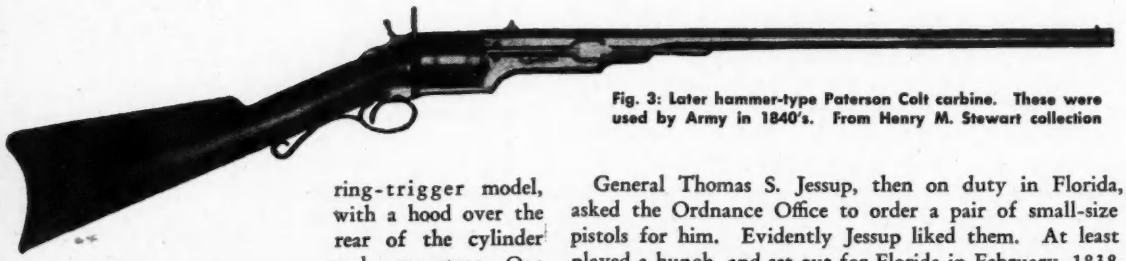


Fig. 3: Later hammer-type Paterson Colt carbine. These were used by Army in 1840's. From Henry M. Stewart collection

ring-trigger model, with a hood over the rear of the cylinder and a top strap. One of the first made may be seen in the National Museum, Smithsonian Institution in Washington. The muskets, all of which seem to have disappeared, were quite heavy, with a seven-shot cylinder. The Board's report was discouraging, the members being unanimously of the opinion that Colt arms were not suited to the Service, delicate, and easily put out of order. From an examination of such early specimens as are now available, it appears that the Board was probably correct. Speaking of these types a few years later, Colt said, ". . . The arms submitted in 1837 to the examination of a board of officers appointed by the Secretary of War were the first arms ever made on my principle, and were got up in a great hurry, under the greatest possible disadvantage (the principle of the invention being almost the only thing I considered at that time); consequently, the arms were very imperfect, and easily got out of order. Since that time, more than three years have elapsed and thousands of my arms have been made and used. . . ."*

Colt rapidly worked out the "bugs" in his rifle, and by late 1837 he had the improved eight-shot, ring-trigger model in production, and was working on his "pocket-size" pistol, which appears to have been in production by January of 1838. The larger .34 caliber size, or "belt" pistol, was made during 1837. It is the author's belief that the small pocket-size pistol mentioned in the letter that follows was the .31 caliber with the smaller straight grips instead of the flared-butt type.

Paterson, Sept. 16, 1837.

Sir:

In your esteemed favor under date 12th Inst. you request us to send to Genl. Jesup a pair of Pistols.

We are now making a lot of the smallest size pocket pistol but we cannot possibly get any finished before the latter part of November or December when we shall be most happy to forward a pair to Genl. Jesup. I have to remark that we are making a lot of Rifles, a portion of which will be in the New York market about the first of next month.

I Rem. Yours most respectfully,

To. Col. Bomford. Sam Colt.

Paterson Colt revolver and accessories furnished with factory cased outfits. From James E. Serven collection

General Thomas S. Jessup, then on duty in Florida, had asked the Ordnance Office to order a pair of small-size Colt pistols for him. Evidently Jessup liked them. At least Colt played a hunch, and set out for Florida in February, 1838, taking with him the rifles and pistols that could be made ready.

During the Seminole Indian War, as a result of his visit, Colt firearms were first used in the United States service. Commanders in the field were authorized at that time to purchase arms and other equipment as needed. General Jessup took what Colt offered (50 rifles and 25 pistols), after a test by a special board of officers, on March 9, 1838, had resulted in a most favorable report. Each rifle was equipped with two eight-shot cylinders or "receivers" (Fig. 1). Evidently the lot included more than one caliber (several were made) as indicated in a letter written to Colt by First Sergeant Henry of the 2d Dragoons, in which he said, in part.

. . . "Although the arms were of an extremely light and fancy make, yet they were found to be durable;—There being a variety of calibers among them, I found some little trouble at first by getting the balls mixed, and thereby causing some difficulty in loading . . . firing at a thick oak plank, one hundred yards distant, every ball penetrated about two inches. . . . a greater part hit within two inches of the center. . . ."
Sen. Doc. 503.

It is not known just which type of Colt pistol was used by the Army in Florida, but it was very likely one of the caliber .34 revolvers with about a six-inch barrel. Old returns of ordnance stores of that period show that twenty-five Colt's repeating pistols were on hand. It is known that the pistols were sold in considerable numbers to officers as personal arms. The one used with semiofficial sanction was probably of the general characteristics of that shown in Figure 2. This specimen is the "serial number one" pistol described in Serven's *Paterson Pistols*.

Sam Colt was never easily discouraged and his sales in Florida prompted him to try once more to interest the War De-

* (*Sen. Doc. 503, 26th Congress, 1st Session, 1839-40, hereafter cited as "Sen. Doc. 503."*)

partment, despite the unqualified rejection of the 1837 tests. He decided to get in by the back door, through the Act of 1808, under which the militia of the various states was to be armed by the Ordnance Department, using Federal funds. Working along this line, he approached several states, convinced them of the merit of his arms, and got the state officials to request his weapons from Washington. The Ordnance Department declined to supply other than standard types, but Colt, encouraged by the states' interests, made another direct approach to the War Department, detailing the improvements made since the 1837 trials. Finally a second trial was approved, resulting in another rejection. However, during the year, Colt managed to sell the Texas Navy some pistols and carbines. The latter appear to have been the only carbines of the eight-shot type used in State or Federal service. This sale turned Sam's interest to the Navy. In the spring of 1840, that Department made a test following a suggestion in the form of a Congressional Resolution, which Colt had instigated. The results being somewhat favorable, the following letter was written to the Secretary of War:

Fig. 4: Later .36 caliber revolver, probably the type furnished the Navy in 1845. From Henry M. Stewart coll.

Washington, June 9, 1840.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the report printed by order of the Senate on the subject of the recent examination of my improved Repeating Fire Arms, by a board of Naval Officers. By this Report you will perceive that, for Boat service, my new arms are recommended in the following highly favorable language: . . . the Board "are decidedly of the opinion that every vessel of war should be supplied with a sufficient number of these rifles and pistols for arming boat expeditions—[for this use they have an] advantage over the arms now used in the service." I have taken the liberty to place this document before you in the hope that your attention to the subject may open the way for a successful effort to terminate the Seminole War. My improved arms are recommended for the Naval service on the grounds that they can be loaded or their receivers shifted while the men are lying down in the bottom of their boats; that when the guns are loaded, the charges are perfectly secure against exposure to water; & that a larger volley of fire can be thrown at a particular point for a limited time than from any other guns. Surely these advantages apply as well to Indian warfare as to Boat service, especially in such a country as Florida. . . . My rifles, carrying each eight charges, and one extra loaded cylinder. . . . The only objection that has been raised against my arms is based on the supposition that they are complicated and more likely to get out of order than the common musket. This opinion was correct in relation to the *first arms* manufactured of my construction, but it will not apply to my *improved arms*. . . .

Samuel Colt

To the Hon. Joel R. Poinsett
Sec. of War

Meanwhile, several officers on duty in Florida wrote to the Ordnance Office requesting Colt arms for their units. Finally, after a barrage of letters from Colt and some political pressure, a new test was arranged. Though the results were still unfavorable, a minority report was also submitted. Grasping at this straw, Colt wrote to the Secretary of War for an order. Eventually 100 carbines of rifle caliber (.525 inch) were ordered for trial at Carlisle Barracks, Palatka, Florida, and western posts. The order, placed on March 2, 1841, called for 100 carbines at forty dollars each, plus implements at five dollars per set. They were the first Colt arms regularly ordered by the U. S. Government, and were of the hammer type, smoothbore (Fig. 3).

Shortly thereafter, on July 23, 1840, the Navy (following up the recommendations in the 1840 report) placed an order through the Army for sixty carbines, similar but rifled.

After the Army carbines were delivered, Colt wrote to the Chief of Ordnance, saying that he would like to visit the units that were to try the weapons to offer suggestions as to their use and to help in instruction. This was refused. In general, there seemed to have been a rather unsympathetic attitude to the arms throughout, culminating in a letter written Nov. 4, 1841, from the Ordnance Office to the Secretary of War. This letter concluded: "Under all these circumstances it becomes the duty of this Department to recommend that no more of these arms shall for the present at least, be issued to troops."

However, the Navy evidently liked the carbines, for in 1845 they placed another order through the Army. By then, the Patent Arms Manufacturing Company had gone out of business, but John Ehlers, former Treasurer, had acquired the remaining stocks of arms and parts. Ordnance placed the Navy order with him on August 28, 1845. It included "100 Colt's repeating carbines, 6 charged, each ½ ounce ball, at $32.50; 100 Boarding pistols, 5 charged, each $25. The appendages are included in the above prices." This was the first official Government order for Colt's revolvers. Of the revolvers, only fifty were delivered (probably caliber .36 with loading lever, as shown in Figure 4), but the full 100 carbines were available. These were used in California during the Mexican War, along with some of the then-new Model 1847 revolvers. The carbines were still in use in 1853, during the Navy's expedition to Japan, being mentioned in a contemporary account.

The three orders, one Army and two Navy, were all that the Ordnance Department placed with Colt for long arms during the period under discussion. The next were well after the introduction of the new 1855 side-hammer models. The cylinder shoulder arms were never very popular. In 1846, an Ordnance Board, in reporting on the Colt carbine said, "If there is the slightest flaw in the ball two or more charges will explode at once, which makes the use of them very dangerous. This accident has repeatedly happened. . . ." *(To be concluded)* ♣ ♣ ♣

THE AUTHOR: *Major Lewis is a Regular Army officer with a long-time interest in early American firearms. He is the author of an exhaustive book on the characteristics and performance of U. S. weapons, to be published this year by Military Service Publishing Company. Major Lewis is at present stationed at the Army War College in Washington, preparing for a new over-seas assignment.*

The Juniors Are Coming

(Continued from page 8)

window overlooked a grove of trees where the crows had been having morning conventions for years, and the boy made it very costly for them. For about two weeks he got a crow every morning. They would settle, cawing, on the trees each morning at about daybreak, and pretty soon one of them would find himself a good crow. Finally their unusually sharp minds grasped the fact that there was no future in this particular spot and they quit coming back.

When fall came and school started, Harry and I figured that would be the last we would see of the boys, but they soon upset that fatuous belief. One evening they all descended on us and said they wanted to keep shooting during the winter and seemed to think we should do something about it. At the moment we couldn't, but finally Harry found a seventy-five-foot storage room back of the gym and, after a little work on the school authorities, we got permission to use it. The boys helped make it into a range and we installed backstops, target frames, lights, and got some old mats to shoot from.

Business was booming. More students were coming into the class right along when all of a sudden unexpected opposition popped up. We had several dear old lady teachers on the faculty. Unfortunately, these beacons of gunless virtue discovered there was shooting going on in the building. None of them would have known a gun from a broom if they had seen one, but the mere fact that such a practice existed made it their duty to cleanse the building and the boys of this evil influence. So, one day a delegation of the old biddies descended on the principal and demanded that the shooting be stopped. Finally the principal, in self-defense, gave in and we had to stop. We found our Latin teacher had started the ball rolling and enlisted the support of several others of similar views. The dear old souls hailed this victory as an outstanding triumph in character salvation. They solemnly agreed this was the sort of thing that starts wars, and the fact that fate had given them the chance to help rid our country of such a vicious trend gave them much righteous satisfaction. As for the Latin teacher, her dull routine of spending every day with a deservedly dead language was pepped up considerably thereafter. When the boys found out what she had done for them, they took every precaution to see that her classroom problems were divided into far more parts than Gaul.

We were really in a spot. We had a very satisfactory place, and quite a promising bunch of boys, and now it looked as if we would have to drop the whole idea, at least until warm weather came. Then one day I was talking to an acquaintance of mine who was a member of the local NRA club, and told him what had happened. He looked at me incredulously.

"Why the devil didn't you say something to me about that in the first place?" he said. "We can take care of the whole outfit and as many more as you can scrape up. You can rest assured you'll have no feminine opposition, either bovine or human."

This was quite a shock, but certainly a pleasant one for a change. I had known about the local club from reading about their matches in the paper, but supposed match shooting was all they did, never dreaming that they ran a kindergarten also. And I had supposed membership was confined to adults. But my friend went on to explain that they had a complete junior program—complete, that was, except for the juniors—and they would more than welcome the chance to have that little gap filled in. He added that the club at the last meeting had discussed means of tapping the high school crop somehow, that being the most logical source of material. We had played right into their hands.

Harry and I lost no time in telling the boys about this windfall, and he took over the liaison job between club and school. I joined the club and offered to help with the instruction. Before the month was over we had skipped our original six through so they could pick up anything we might have missed. In addition two new classes had been started; there was even a likelihood of more to come.

There is no question that such a group can be handled more smoothly and efficiently within the NRA than independently, but from what I know now there is certainly no reason for folding up when, for some reason, NRA help isn't available. Several arms companies, Winchester and Mossberg among them, supply training manuals, usually free, and when a group has absorbed one of these they are far from tyros. Of course, the NRA awards ratings and gives recognition that can be had in no other way, and most boys appreciate having their prowess made known to the public. And last, but not least, if a group can be funneled into the NRA one can escape much obnoxious bookkeeping and pencil work.

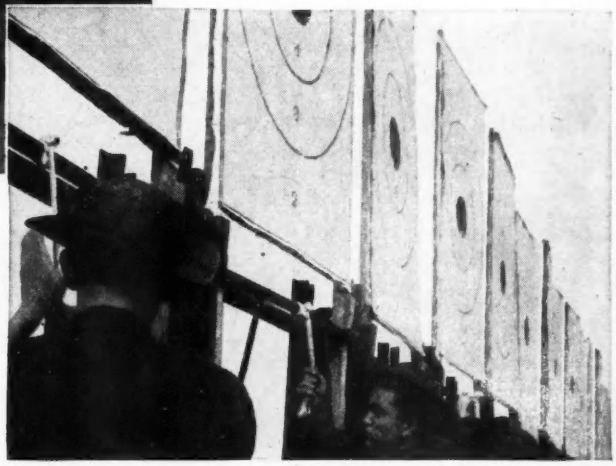
At present the high school is siphoning boys into the club in a steady stream and it's seldom we have less than two classes a week. So far almost all of them have qualified for some sort of rating, many of them expert. Some even became so brash as to make senior expert. In general, we need very little ego fertilizer for the boys. Most of our efforts are confined to tending our own prestige, nourishing it so that it doesn't wither and die.

I contributed heavily to instructor mortification one evening by allowing myself to be sucked into an ill-advised offhand match with one of the advanced students. In deference to my declining years he suggested I shoot first, which I did. By being very slow and careful about my five shots, I knocked off what I considered a very adequate forty-six, then condescendingly told the boy to go ahead. When the smoke of battle had cleared and all the gauges had been put away, he shoved a very nasty little forty-nine under my nose and mentioned something about shooting for a nickel a point. Just then I had to go home and fix the hen house. Now I hoist a very cautious and conservative finger into the breeze before getting sucked into anything I'll regret.

At present I'm leaving my rifle at home until this class graduates. As soon as a new one starts I hope to again be able to move in less critical circles, where my forty-sixes will be looked upon with awe as proof of the dizzy heights to which markmanship can soar. ♦ ♦ ♦

Before placing seventh in the Third Army Area Rifle Championships, pistol shooter Harlon B. Carter sought an understanding of the M1 from CWO "Smitty" Brown, USMC—in his first cheek to stock meeting with the Garand

THIS CIVILIAN SAYS THE GARAND IS NOT THE BUGABOO IN MATCH FIRING THAT IT'S REPUTED TO BE



The Civilian and the M1

By HARLON B. CARTER

"BUT LOOK, BUTCH, YOU JUST HAVE TO GO. We're trying to get the biggest possible turnout, and I feel personally responsible for putting this thing over." Major Harding was serious.

"But, Major, you know I'm a pistol shooter. I haven't shot a rifle in years and never fired the M1. And from what I've heard from the smart dopesters I have no ambition to shoot it."

The Third Army Area Rifle Championships were to be fired at Fort Benning, Georgia, that November week end. Although they were strictly military matches with the M1 (Garand) rifle, civilians were invited. The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice had authorized "legs" on the Distinguished Marksman award of the War Department to the highest scorers among eligible non-Distinguished rifleshots. Being a holder of the Distinguished award with the pistol, the possibility of adding a leg toward the procurement of that fine award with the rifle was too much.

To be sure, civilians like to "possess" their rifles. They like to think of them as superaccurate weapons, as things of beauty into which they have built some of their own ideas, and most of all, to think of them as one of the family. Not so with the M1 rifle. It is strictly GI—a battle baby spawned by military men and matured in bloody sands and jungles from Tunisia to Guadalcanal. It is impersonal and reputedly capricious.

The questions today for thousands of civilian shooters concerning competition with the M1 are: Can a civilian do it? Can he get the rifle? Can he make it shoot? Does it require an armorer on the range at all times in order to carry on a .30 caliber match? And, last of all, is it accurate?

I went searching for the answers. In my files of THE

In adopting the M1 to competition, civilian marksmen must realize it is a semiautomatic rifle. Modifications of the rifle and competitive rules should be made in the light of experience with it and not as extensions of practices which worked with the Springfield

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN one up-to-date article was particularly helpful and exactly the sort of thing I wanted. It was Lawrence's story, in August, 1946. For the first time I had an inkling of the problems I was likely to meet at Benning.

I went down to Benning one day before the matches began. A rifle—one from among hundreds—was furnished me. I drove immediately to the rifle range and cleaned my rifle as best I could without disassembling it. I wanted to fire it and get as much dope as possible, and I didn't know how to take it down. Imagine the pink creeping up beneath my collar, if you will, when I was compelled to ask a stranger how to load the thing! I had on a new shooting coat and felt sure that among this group of military-rifle experts would be someone who would question me as to whether it would be safe for me to fire. But I did fire and in a few minutes was smacking the "A" target at 200 yards with satisfying regularity. That night a friend showed me the rifle's innards and I cleaned her up thoroughly.

Squadded practice was arranged for the following morning. It was during this that I really began to understand my M1. My first question on the range was concerning the best method for recording one's sight readings. I went straight to Smitty Brown and his Marines from Quantico. If that bunch couldn't answer my questions, they couldn't be answered. The first

The author suggests to civilian and military alike that best results can be obtained with the M1 in competition if they bottle up their imagination and just aim, hold, and squeeze. Pictured above is a group of ROTC Cadets from the Gordon Military Institute, Barnesville, Ga., who fired in the matches

one is very simple. You just start at 200 yards, for example, and shoot until she's right. Then you turn the elevation screw downward until it stops, counting the clicks as you go. That is your reading. Mine was nine clicks, which is about normal. Then Smitty said most shooters add about three clicks from 200 to 300, about seven or eight from 300 to 500, and about four or five from 500 to 600. These clicks are minutes of angle. I found out that his dope worked perfectly for me.

Then, remembering Lawrence's article, I asked Smitty about the necessity for cleaning the gas cylinder internally each night and the probable effect on the zero which I was in the process of finding. His advice was that I should tighten the gas cylinder head as tightly as possible, check frequently to see that it remained tight, but not to take the rifle down completely each night for cleaning. To do so will often, if not usually, change the zero of the rifle. He emphasized that the chamber should be cleaned thoroughly with a brass brush and patch. The barrel should be cleaned well at night and wiped dry before firing next morning.

Related to the problem of a constant zero is the problem of keeping the front sight tight. Not only must the gas cylinder head be kept absolutely tight but there is a little hexagonal nut (for which an Allen wrench is issued) on the face of the front sight base. This must be checked often and kept absolutely tight. But the rifle will shoot through a tournament without the gas cylinder becoming unduly fouled. It began to dawn on me that there was really nothing difficult about this M1 except ridding oneself of the fears that it would not function, and then just going ahead and shooting it. Jams were rare during this tournament and none occurred to me.

The first match of the tournament was fired immediately after noon. The weather was cloudy, the temperature was fifty-two degrees, and the wind was blowing at about fifteen miles an hour from nine o'clock. Occasional rain drizzled across the range. It was muddy in places, the ammunition was wet, and wet clothing certainly added nothing to what one could hope for with the rifle.

The experiences we had in this match were typical of the entire tournament, and could very well be applied to all the matches fired. Ammunition was the M2 150 grain flat-base load, reported by some not to be dependable at 500 and 600 yards. Considering the various difficulties, such as the weather at Benning, we found this ammuni-

Miss Audrey Richards, the top ranking feminine competitor in the tournament, was impressed with the M1's light recoil

tion to be fairly satisfactory at 500 yards, though I believe that this is its extreme range on bullseyes now standard.

In the first match I scored a forty-three offhand, which was not a good score, in spite of the weather, when one considers the excellent balance of the M1 rifle for offhand shooting. Later offhand scores were better. I wonder if the errors introduced by the long hammer fall and floating firing pin mentioned by Lawrence are not compensated for by the excellent balance and hang of the rifle in the offhand position. It is muzzle heavy and swings in slow movements after one aligns the sights.

From offhand, we went to the 500-yard range where I fired my first shot with one click of left wind. Someone may figure out that one click of left wind is not correct for a fifteen-mile-per-hour wind at nine o'clock at 500 yards. My score, however, was fired on the extreme left of the range and a high levee paralleled the line of fire from the firing line to the target. My first shot was a five, my final score a forty-six. No shot was less than a four. I made no sight changes during the firing. After moving back to 600 yards I repeated the same score, making no changes except to add four clicks of elevation. The experience of some others at 600 yards was not so fortunate, but after talking to many I am convinced that some shooters going on the line with the M1 at 600 yards are licked before they start. They do not believe the rifle will produce a score and hence they produce none. A guy like me, who had never been told that the rifle would not shoot at 600, could do better although I, too, after three days of shooting believe that groups are considerably larger at 600 yards in proportion to their dispersion at 500 yards.

After shooting 150 competitive shots without a single failure or sight loosening, I am convinced that big competitions can be held with the M1 and that civilians can compete without difficulty. My own place of seventh in the grand aggregate, among more than 120 of the country's best military marksmen, is not better than any other civilian marksman can expect who is willing to forget the ill words spoken about the M1 and who is willing to bottle up his imagination and just aim, hold, and squeeze.

Concerning future .30 caliber matches, civilian marksmen have a serious responsibility in that they must recognize the existence of a semiautomatic rifle, military conditions, and budgetary considerations. To be sure, we must make some changes and we must have the courage and the ingenuity to make those changes on the basis of experience with the M1 and not as mere modifications of equipment and procedures found to work best with the Springfield rifle.

I have suggestions to make, but I have neither the experience with the M1, nor the engineering qualifications to criticize. Like thousands of civilian marksmen in this country, however, I can fire through a tournament and shoot a rifle and tell whether both are working. Benning proved, to me at least, that the M1 will work and that tournaments fired with the M1 rifle can be real matches. The winners will be those who can shoot best and solve their problems best. After all, that is what we wish to determine and reward.

Leatherneck M/Gy Sgt. H. A. Barrett (left) of Parris Island, S. C., winner of the rifle matches, and M/Gy Sgt. A. E. Snyder, also of Parris Island, were among the military contingent present at the first competition with the M1

Personally, I believe that the marksman should be permitted to use any width of front sight and any size of rear aperture that he prefers. The sights now in use are generally agreed to be too large for present-day bullseyes. Furthermore, he should be permitted to remove the flared ears on either side of the front sight blade. If it is thought from the military standpoint that this is too great a modification, then those ears might be bent wider and flatter to insure that the less well-trained civilian marksman will not fire a shot in sustained fire over one of the ears instead of over the front sight blade itself. I almost experienced heart failure in one string at Benning when I found myself taking up the slack in the trigger and aiming over one of those ears.

Although the trigger of the rifle I fired throughout the Benning matches had a decided creep and weighed six pounds, I found a considerable number to have a clean break at five to six pounds. My average offhand in the tournament was just under forty-four. Considering the weather, I do not see how I could use the trigger for an alibi. I am convinced that the old notions we had that a trigger must break clean as a glass rod at just exactly three pounds were things of our imagination. A trigger which breaks clean at five to six pounds is no obstacle.

The locking bar on the right side of the rear sight is difficult to operate and after a day of shooting leaves one with a sore thumb and forefinger. It could easily be replaced by a knurled head lock nut serving precisely the same purpose and not one bit less practical from the military viewpoint. Thus, the complaint that the rear sight does not permit quick adjustments could be somewhat overcome. Furthermore, I heard some shooters complain of lost motion in the rear sight. Mine had none. I do know, however, that after one learns his rifle a click of lost motion is not too serious a problem. Knowing that the click of lost motion is there, the skilled rifleman will allow for it in his adjustments. Looseness in the sight is something else and more serious. Examination indicates, however, that careful fitting, such as any rifleman is capable of, can remove this.

All in all, I'll bet money that soon scores will be forthcoming with the Garand which will satisfy any marksman. ● ● ●

special Stith mounts are needed, which means a change of the front end of the mount to compensate for the enlarged objective end. Except that they allow the use of one rifle and scope for year-round shooting, these conversion jobs might be classed as makeshift. Too, they have served well to fill a need for the varmint shooter who wants the best.

The target shooter needs fine adjustments in his scope mounts. These he has had for many years in the good target mounts. The hunter of big game does not need such close adjustments and the internal controls of the hunting scopes are adequate. But the varmint shooter has been partially neglected. He cannot get in over-the-counter purchases, scopes and mounts which are accurate, have sufficient magnification, and will hold their adjustments. Since about nine-tenths of the year even a big-game hunter is using his rifles for varmint or small-game shooting, the varmint shooter should not be overlooked. That is probably the reason some of the progressive scope manufacturers have recently announced their new "varmint scopes and mounts." This type of hunter wants a short, compact scope with the rear mount on the receiver bridge. He also wants secure, but accurate, adjustable knobless mounts.

It is interesting to note that at least three scope makers have recently announced varmint scopes and mounts similar to the type varmint hunters have been ordering custom-made for sometime. One is the Model-V, in 6X, 8X, and 10X, made by the Edwards Sight & Optical Company. It is about fifteen inches overall in length, with one-inch ocular diameter and one-and-one-quarter-inch objective. The tube diameter three-quarter inch, and the eye relief is upward of four inc The objective is adjustable for range, and good optics is insu The new mounts have target-type adjustments made with screw driver. This is the hunting mount.

At almost the same time John Unertl announced a 6X and varmint hunting scope with the same dehorned-type mou This scope also has enlarged ocular and objective lenses wit three-quarter-inch tube. Several of these scopes have b examined and the optics seems very good.

The Fecker Woodchucker is the third varmint scope now the market. Manufactured by J. W. Fecker, Inc., it is availa in 4X, 5.5X, and 7X. The scope, which is 16 inches in leng also uses the dehorned micrometer mounts and has a 1.2-i objective.

These progressive manufacturers, along with Litschert a his "Varmint Master" hunting scope attachment, are givi the pest shooter what he wants and needs. Undoubtedly ot manufacturers will follow with scopes to take the place of so of those favorite 6X and 8X short scopes of foreign make wh are no longer readily available.

One thing to remember is that the conventional position scope bases on the barrel of the average bolt-action rifle w not place these shorter scopes far enough back over the recei for proper eye relief, so new holes must be drilled and tap or located correctly when the rifle is made.

Velocity As a Function of Headspace

(*Continued from page* 18)

primer cup only 0.075, 0.065 inch, or 0.010 inch. As it was worked out, however, the inertia of the cartridge was great enough so that satisfactory primer functioning always resulted.

Figure 2 shows, contrary to popular belief, that increased headspace, at least under the conditions of this test, does not, in itself, result in lower velocities. In fact, the velocity increases to a maximum for an increase in headspace of some 0.030 inch. This is considerably beyond the increase encountered in normal wear of a sporting arm or even a military rifle. With the greatest headspace used, there was a very slight indication of stretched cases, about halfway to the shoulder, and no indication of primer failure. The firing pin indent appeared to be about the same throughout the test. The fired cases appeared to have their necks shortened progressively, which is made clear by Figure I. A graph of velocities, plotted as ordinants, against headspaces, plotted as abscissas, is shown in Figure II.

Just how to explain the increase in velocity is somewhat difficult. As the headspace is slowly increased from the 1.940 inches value, the bullet has a space to pass over before the ogive and sides begin to be engraved by the lands. This is right at the time when the bullet is experiencing its greatest acceleration. Thus, the bullet gains an increasing amount of momentum before the engraving and consequent retarding forces begin to act. This might account for the initial increase in velocity. Then as the headspace is pushed to extremes, the loss in velocity due to the escape of gases around the bullet before it enters and obturates the bore, more than counteracts the effect of the gain in velocity due to the increased momentum acquired before frictional forces begin to act. From then on, an increase in headspace simply results in decreased velocit

What this series of tests would show in the case of au matic weapons is not to be surmised. Also, the Univer Receiver has no extractor, and slightly different results mi be obtained if performed in an M1903, say, where the cartri is, in a sense, held to the face of the bolt by the extractor.

Many sportsmen are too concerned with excessive headsp (that is, over the mythical limit set by the manufacturer the gun) in dealing with used weapons. Increased headsp even thirty or forty thousandths of an inch over maximu does not in itself result in lower velocities. What does res however, is the erosion of the throat and bullet seat, and t should be the first thing to check when considering a used g instead of yelling for a set of headspace gauges. Even th it is possible in general to return a badly eroded gun to original velocity by cutting off an inch or so of the chamber e and rechambering. That is the usual procedure with Ma accuracy barrels. The barrel practically never wears out. have seen Mann barrels with 30,000 or more rounds throu them and nothing ever done to them, bring in mean radi accuracy test ammunition almost as well as when new. I h seen machine-gun barrels of both .30 and .50 caliber wh were worn to the extent that no grooves or lands were detecta throughout the barrel (the appearance being much as surface of a charred log) and through which the appropr bullet would drop freely, the barrel diameter being about eighth of an inch greater than the bullet diameter. Mac guns in which these barrels were mounted functioned p fectly, the cyclic rate of fire only just beginning to d Of course, the accuracy probably suffered (the guns descri were used on function and casualty proof testing) as well velocity, but the guns functioned all right.

AM COLT'S REPEATING ISTOL

PART I

By MAJOR B. R. LEWIS

AS LONG BEEN KNOWN that, from the filing of his first erican patent in 1836, Samuel Colt sought a Govern- market for the arms he had invented. That winter, as d in the *Army and Navy Chronicle,* Colt visited Wash- with one of his promotion-model pistols and demon- it to the President and to the Secretary of War. But n that date and the permanent establishment of his at Hartford, there have been many blank pages in the ory. In recent years the efforts of Major James E. Hicks, Albert Foster, Jr., Jack Rohan, and Haven, and currently James E. have served to clear up many of the inties of that period.

ile the author was stationed in or near ington for several years during and the war, he used his spare time to dig h old records in the Ordnance Depart- nd in the National Archives to obtain ind information on the Colt story. It ught best to quote the contemporary ts exactly, with a minimum of inter- ion and filling in by the author. e not quoted verbatim, the material is from similar official sources, unless otherwise indicated. eader will not be burdened with details already made avail- in the works of the authors mentioned previously.

or to 1837, Colt had only a few promotion models to dem- te, and these had serious defects of design. It appears the first arms demonstrated by him to the Government,

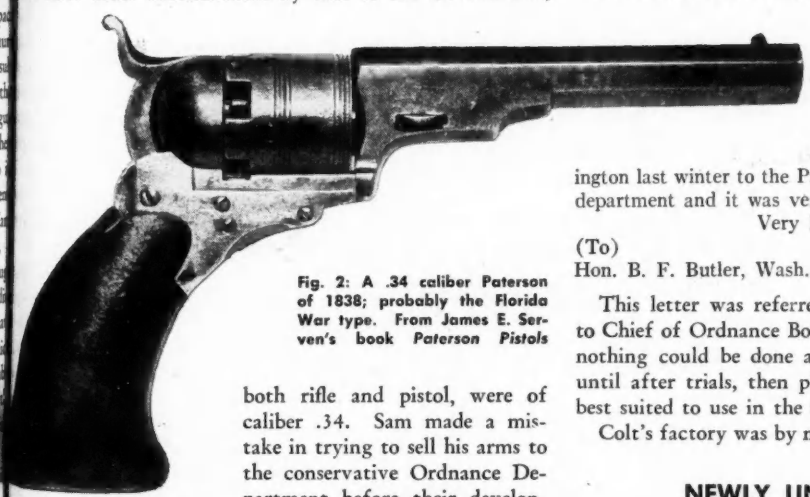


Fig. 2: A .34 caliber Paterson of 1838; probably the Florida War type. From James E. Serven's book *Paterson Pistols*

both rifle and pistol, were of caliber .34. Sam made a mistake in trying to sell his arms to the conservative Ordnance Department before their develop- was really completed. It was a long time before he over- the initial prejudices thus established.

rly in 1837, the Paterson factory began to operate effec- y. A letter from a member of the firm, written to a Congressman in 1837, documents one of Colt's early attempts to sell the United States on his Paterson revolvers:

New York, Jan. 10, 1837.

Dear Sir:

I have noticed the attempt of Mr. Thompson of South Carolina to introduce a Resolution in relation to the "Gun" of Cochran, Colt, and others. The patent of Mr. Colt has been transferred to a company of Gentlemen in this City and New Jersey who have erected a splendid building at Patterson (*sic*) with view of carrying

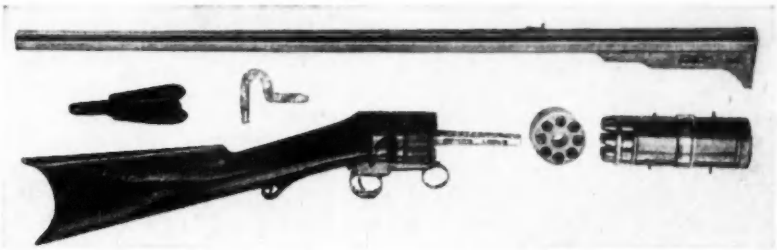


Fig. 1: Ring-trigger eight-shot Paterson Colt rifle of the type used in the Florida war. With it are accessories as supplied in case. From the author's collection

on an extensive manufactory of the Gun. It is supposed that the invention of Colt is the most important one that has been made in this country for many years and it is thought it would be useful for the Government to have an experiment made by competent judges of the utility of the instrument.

I am interested in the manufactory and should be very glad if a resolution similar to Mr. Thompsons should pass. No harm to the nation and great good might result from it. We think we could furnish a quantity of the guns before the Florida War is over according to present appearances. Mr. Colt exhibited his gun at Washington last winter to the President and to the heads of the military department and it was very much admired and applauded.

Very Respectfully Yours,

(To) V. (?) Hoyt

Hon. B. F. Butler, Wash.

This letter was referred by the Military Affairs Committee to Chief of Ordnance Bomford, who replied to Mr. Butler that nothing could be done as to placing an order with Mr. Colt until after trials, then planned, to determine the breechloader best suited to use in the Service.

Colt's factory was by no means ready for the Army tests con-

NEWLY UNEARTHED FACTS IN THE STORY OF SAM COLT'S EARLIEST REPEATING FIREARMS—THE FAMED PATERSON AND WALKER REVOLVERS

ducted at West Point in 1837. However, the enterprising young inventor submitted quite a range of arms, made up by toolroom methods. The official report of the tests mentions small- and large-caliber rifles (.34 and .42), carbines, and caliber .64 smoothbore muskets. Colt later stated that he had submitted a pistol also—perhaps only for examination, as the trials were in the nature of a competition between shoulder arms. The Colt rifles then tested were the first type of the

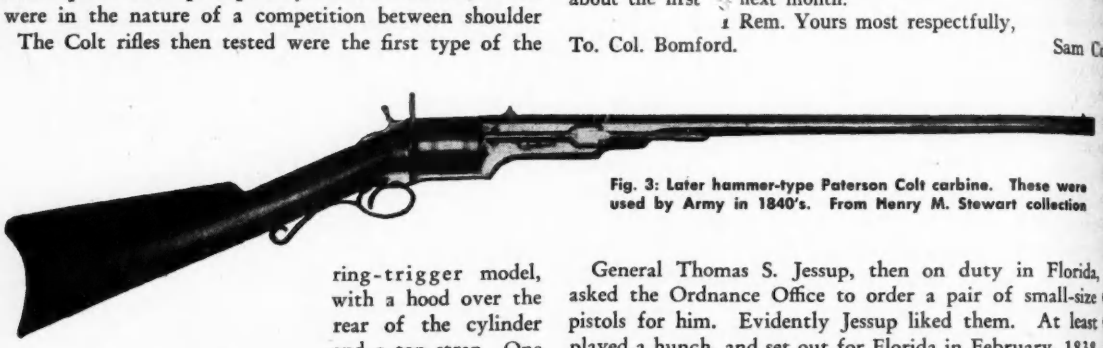


Fig. 3: Later hammer-type Paterson Colt carbine. These were used by Army in 1840's. From Henry M. Stewart collection

ring-trigger model, with a hood over the rear of the cylinder and a top strap. One of the first made may be seen in the National Museum, Smithsonian Institution in Washington. The muskets, all of which seem to have disappeared, were quite heavy, with a seven-shot cylinder. The Board's report was discouraging, the members being unanimously of the opinion that Colt arms were not suited to the Service, delicate, and easily put out of order. From an examination of such early specimens as are now available, it appears that the Board was probably correct. Speaking of these types a few years later, Colt said, ". . . The arms submitted in 1837 to the examination of a board of officers appointed by the Secretary of War were the first arms ever made on my principle, and were got up in a great hurry, under the greatest possible disadvantage (the principle of the invention being almost the only thing I considered at that time); consequently, the arms were very imperfect, and easily got out of order. Since that time, more than three years have elapsed and thousands of my arms have been made and used. . . ."*

Colt rapidly worked out the "bugs" in his rifle, and by late 1837 he had the improved eight-shot, ring-trigger model in production, and was working on his "pocket-size" pistol, which appears to have been in production by January of 1838. The larger .34 caliber size, or "belt" pistol, was made during 1837. It is the author's belief that the small pocket-size pistol mentioned in the letter that follows was the .31 caliber with the smaller straight grips instead of the flared-butt type.

Paterson, Sept. 16, 1837.

Sir:

In your esteemed favor under date 12th Inst. you request us to send to Genl. Jesup a pair of Pi

We are now making a lot of the smallest size pocket pistol we cannot possibly get any finished before the latter par November or December when we shall be most happy to for a pair to Genl. Jesup. I have to remark that we are making of Rifles, a portion of which will be in the New York ma about the first next month.

1 Rem. Yours most respectfully,

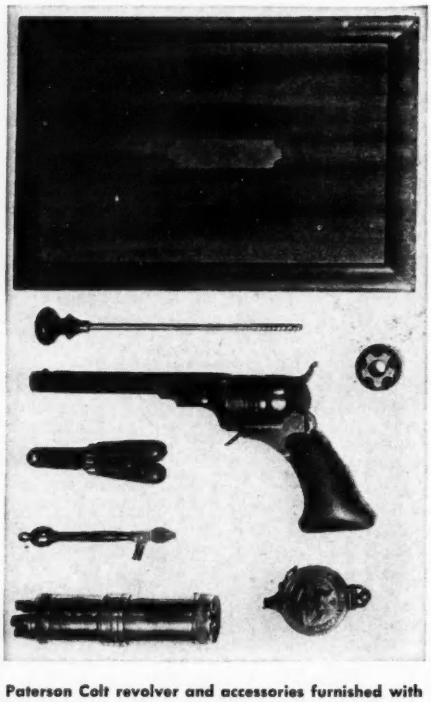
To. Col. Bomford. Sam Co

General Thomas S. Jessup, then on duty in Florida, asked the Ordnance Office to order a pair of small-size C pistols for him. Evidently Jessup liked them. At least C played a hunch, and set out for Florida in February, 1838, ing with him the rifles and pistols that could be made ready

During the Seminole Indian War, as a result of his visit, C firearms were first used in the United States service. C manders in the field were authorized at that time to purch arms and other equipment as needed. General Jessup took Colt offered (50 rifles and 25 pistols), after a test by a board of officers, on March 9, 1838, had resulted in a favorable report. Each rifle was equipped with two eight- cylinders or "receivers" (Fig. 1). Evidently the lot incl more than one caliber (several were made) as indicated letter written to Colt by First Sergeant Henry of the 2d D goons, in which he said, in part.

. . . "Although the arms were of extremely light and fancy make, yet were found to be durable;—There b a variety of calibers among them, I f some little trouble at first by getting balls mixed, and thereby causing difficulty in loading . . . firing at a oak plank, one hundred yards dis every ball penetrated about two inc . . . a greater part hit within two in of the center. . . ."

Sen. Doc. 503.



Paterson Colt revolver and accessories furnished with factory cased outfits. From James E. Serven collection

It is not known just which of Colt pistol was used by the A in Florida, but it was very likely of the caliber .34 revolvers with a six-inch barrel. Old returns ordnance stores of that period that twenty-five Colt's repeating p were on hand. It is known that pistols were sold in considerable n bers to officers as personal arms. one used with semiofficial sanction probably of the general character of that shown in Figure 2. This s men is the "serial number one" described in Serven's *Paterson Pistol*

Sam Colt was never easily discour and his sales in Florida prompted hi try once more to interest the War

* (*Sen. Doc. 503, 26th Congress, 1st Session, 1839-40, hereafter cited as "Sen. Doc. 503."*)

nt, despite the unqualified rejection of the 1837 tests. ided to get in by the back door, through the Act of 1808, which the militia of the various states was to be armed Ordnance Department, using Federal funds. Working this line, he approached several states, convinced them merit of his arms, and got the state officials to request apons from Washington. The Ordnance Department l to supply other than standard types, but Colt, encour- the states' interests, made another direct approach to ar Department, detailing the improvements made since 37 trials. Finally a second trial was approved, resulting ther rejection. However, during the year, Colt managed the Texas Navy some pistols and carbines. The latter to have been the only carbines of the eight-shot type State or Federal service. This sale turned Sam's interest Navy. In the spring of 1840, that Department made a

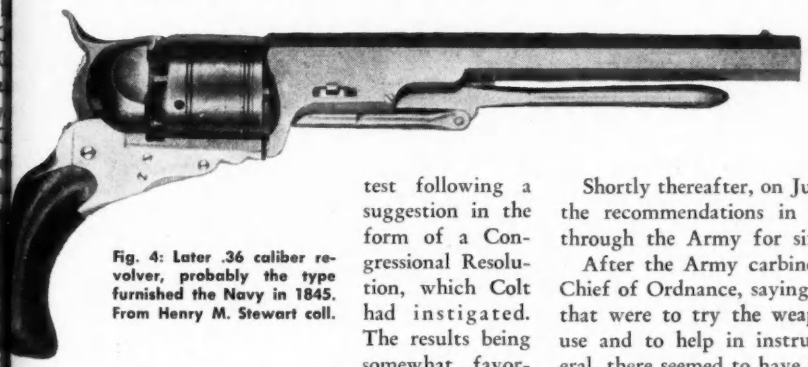


Fig. 4: Later .36 caliber revolver, probably the type furnished the Navy in 1845. From Henry M. Stewart coll.

test following a suggestion in the form of a Congressional Resolution, which Colt had instigated. The results being somewhat favor- e following letter was written to the Secretary of War:

Washington, June 9, 1840.

e the honor to enclose you a copy of the report printed e of the Senate on the subject of the recent examina- my improved Repeating Fire Arms, by a board of Naval By this Report you will perceive that, for Boat serv- new arms are recommended in the following highly fa- language: . . . the Board "are decidedly of the opinion ry vessel of war should be supplied with a sufficient num- these rifles and pistols for arming boat expeditions—[for this y have an] advantage over the arms now used in the " I have taken the liberty to place this document before the hope that your attention to the subject may open the a successful effort to terminate the Seminole War. My arms are recommended for the Naval service on the that they can be loaded or their receivers shifted while are lying down in the bottom of their boats; that when s are loaded, the charges are perfectly secure against ex- o water; & that a larger volley of fire can be thrown at a r point for a limited time than from any other guns. hese advantages apply as well to Indian warfare as to Boat especially in such a country as Florida. . . . My rifles, each eight charges, and one extra loaded cylinder. . . .

The only objection that has been raised against my arms is based on the supposition that they are complicated and more likely to get out of order than the common musket. This opinion was correct in relation to the *first arms* manufactured of my construction, but it will not apply to my *improved arms*. . . .

Samuel Colt

To the Hon. Joel R. Poinsett
Sec. of War

Meanwhile, several officers on duty in Florida wrote to the Ordnance Office requesting Colt arms for their units. Finally, after a barrage of letters from Colt and some political pressure, a new test was arranged. Though the results were still unfavorable, a minority report was also submitted. Grasping at this straw, Colt wrote to the Secretary of War for an order. Eventually 100 carbines of rifle caliber (.525 inch) were ordered for trial at Carlisle Barracks, Palatka, Florida, and western posts. The order, placed on March 2, 1841, called for 100 carbines at forty dollars each, plus implements at five dollars per set. They were the first Colt arms regularly ordered by the U. S. Government, and were of the hammer type, smoothbore (Fig. 3).

Shortly thereafter, on July 23, 1840, the Navy (following up the recommendations in the 1840 report) placed an order through the Army for sixty carbines, similar but rifled.

After the Army carbines were delivered, Colt wrote to the Chief of Ordnance, saying that he would like to visit the units that were to try the weapons to offer suggestions as to their use and to help in instruction. This was refused. In general, there seemed to have been a rather unsympathetic attitude to the arms throughout, culminating in a letter written Nov. 4, 1841, from the Ordnance Office to the Secretary of War. This letter concluded: "Under all these circumstances it becomes the duty of this Department to recommend that no more of these arms shall for the present at least, be issued to troops."

However, the Navy evidently liked the carbines, for in 1845 they placed another order through the Army. By then, the Patent Arms Manufacturing Company had gone out of business, but John Ehlers, former Treasurer, had acquired the remaining stocks of arms and parts. Ordnance placed the Navy order with him on August 28, 1845. It included "100 Colt's repeating carbines, 6 charged, each ½ ounce ball, at $32.50; 100 Boarding pistols, 5 charged, each $25. The appendages are included in the above prices." This was the first official Government order for Colt's revolvers. Of the revolvers, only fifty were delivered (probably caliber .36 with loading lever, as shown in Figure 4), but the full 100 carbines were available. These were used in California during the Mexican War, along with some of the then-new Model 1847 revolvers. The carbines were still in use in 1853, during the Navy's expedition to Japan, being mentioned in a contemporary account.

The three orders, one Army and two Navy, were all that the Ordnance Department placed with Colt for long arms during the period under discussion. The next were well after the introduction of the new 1855 side-hammer models. The cylinder shoulder arms were never very popular. In 1846, an Ordnance Board, in reporting on the Colt carbine said, "If there is the slightest flaw in the ball two or more charges will explode at once, which makes the use of them very dangerous. This accident has repeatedly happened. . . ." *(To be concluded)* ♦ ♦ ♦

AUTHOR: *Major Lewis is a Regular Army officer with time interest in early American firearms. He is the author exhaustive book on the characteristics and performance of weapons, to be published this year by Military Service Pub- g Company. Major Lewis is at present stationed at the War College in Washington, preparing for a new over-seas ment.*

The Juniors Are Coming

(Continued from page 8)

window overlooked a grove of trees where the crows had been having morning conventions for years, and the boy made it very costly for them. For about two weeks he got a crow every morning. They would settle, cawing, on the trees each morning at about daybreak, and pretty soon one of them would find himself a good crow. Finally their unusually sharp minds grasped the fact that there was no future in this particular spot and they quit coming back.

When fall came and school started, Harry and I figured that would be the last we would see of the boys, but they soon upset that fatuous belief. One evening they all descended on us and said they wanted to keep shooting during the winter and seemed to think we should do something about it. At the moment we couldn't, but finally Harry found a seventy-five-foot storage room back of the gym and, after a little work on the school authorities, we got permission to use it. The boys helped make it into a range and we installed backstops, target frames, lights, and got some old mats to shoot from.

Business was booming. More students were coming into the class right along when all of a sudden unexpected opposition popped up. We had several dear old lady teachers on the faculty. Unfortunately, these beacons of gunless virtue discovered there was shooting going on in the building. None of them would have known a gun from a broom if they had seen one, but the mere fact that such a practice existed made it their duty to cleanse the building and the boys of this evil influence. So, one day a delegation of the old biddies descended on the principal and demanded that the shooting be stopped. Finally the principal, in self-defense, gave in and we had to stop. We found our Latin teacher had started the ball rolling and enlisted the support of several others of similar views. The dear old souls hailed this victory as an outstanding triumph in character salvation. They solemnly agreed this was the sort of thing that starts wars, and the fact that fate had given them the chance to help rid our country of such a vicious trend gave them much righteous satisfaction. As for the Latin teacher, her dull routine of spending every day with a deservedly dead language was pepped up considerably thereafter. When the boys found out what she had done for them, they took every precaution to see that her classroom problems were divided into far more parts than Gaul.

We were really in a spot. We had a very satisfactory place, and quite a promising bunch of boys, and now it looked as if we would have to drop the whole idea, at least until warm weather came. Then one day I was talking to an acquaintance of mine who was a member of the local NRA club, and told him what had happened. He looked at me incredulously.

"Why the devil didn't you say something to me about that in the first place?" he said. "We can take care of the whole outfit and as many more as you can scrape up. You can rest assured you'll have no feminine opposition, either bovine or human."

This was quite a shock, but certainly a pleasant one change. I had known about the local club from reading their matches in the paper, but supposed match shooting they did, never dreaming that they ran a kindergarten And I had supposed membership was confined to adults my friend went on to explain that they had a complete program—complete, that was, except for the juniors—and would more than welcome the chance to have that little filled in. He added that the club at the last meeting had cussed means of tapping the high school crop somehow, being the most logical source of material. We had played into their hands.

Harry and I lost no time in telling the boys about windfall, and he took over the liaison job between club school. I joined the club and offered to help with the instruction. Before the month was over we had skipped our c six through so they could pick up anything we might missed. In addition two new classes had been started was even a likelihood of more to come.

There is no question that such a group can be handled smoothly and efficiently within the NRA than independ but from what I know now there is certainly no reason folding up when, for some reason, NRA help isn't avai Several arms companies, Winchester and Mossberg among supply training manuals, usually free, and when a group absorbed one of these they are far from tyros. Of course NRA awards ratings and gives recognition that can be h no other way, and most boys appreciate having their pr made known to the public. And last, but not least, if a can be funneled into the NRA on escape much obnoxious bookkeeping pencil work.

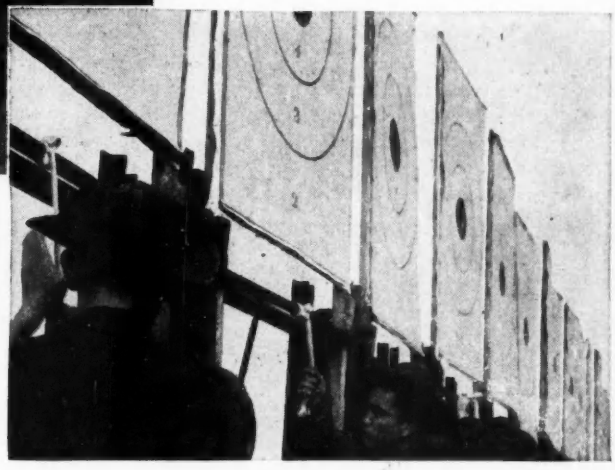
At present the high school is siphon boys into the club in a steady stream it's seldom we have less than two c a week. So far almost all of them qualified for some sort of rating, ma them expert. Some even became so ha to make senior expert. In general need very little ego fertilizer for the Most of our efforts are confined to u our own prestige, nourishing it so t doesn't wither and die.

I contributed heavily to instructor tification one evening by allowing myself to be sucked i ill-advised offhand match with one of the advanced st In deference to my declining years he suggested I shoot which I did. By being very slow and careful about m shots, I knocked off what I considered a very adequate for then condescendingly told the boy to go ahead. Wh smoke of battle had cleared and all the gauges had be away, he shoved a very nasty little forty-nine under m and mentioned something about shooting for a nickel a Just then I had to go home and fix the hen house. I hoist a very cautious and conservative finger into the before getting sucked into anything I'll regret.

At present I'm leaving my rifle at home until thi graduates. As soon as a new one starts I hope to ag able to move in less critical circles, where my forty-six be looked upon with awe as proof of the dizzy heig which markmanship can soar.

THIS CIVILIAN SAYS THE GARAND IS NOT THE BUGABOO IN MATCH FIRING THAT IT'S REPUTED TO BE

Before placing seventh in the Third Army Area Rifle Championships, pistol shooter Harlon B. Carter sought an understanding of the M1 from CWO "Smitty" Brown, USMC—in his first cheek to stock meeting with the Garand



he Civilian and the MI

By HARLON B. CARTER

LOOK, BUTCH, YOU JUST HAVE TO GO. We're trying to get the biggest possible turnout, and I feel personally ible for putting this thing over." Major Harding was

Major, you know I'm a pistol shooter. I haven't shot in years and never fired the M1. And from what I've om the smart dopesters I have no ambition to shoot it." Third Army Area Rifle Championships were to be fired Benning, Georgia, that November week end. Although ere strictly military matches with the M1 (Garand) ilians were invited. The National Board for the Pro- of Rifle Practice had authorized "legs" on the Dis- ed Marksman award of the War Department to the scorers among eligible non-Distinguished rifleshots. holder of the Distinguished award with the pistol, the possibility of adding a leg toward the procurement of that fine award with the rifle was too much.

To be sure, civilians like to "possess" their rifles. They like to think of them as superaccurate weapons, as things of beauty into which they have built some of their own ideas, and most of all, to think of them as one of the family. Not so with the M1 rifle. It is strictly GI—a battle baby spawned by military men and matured in bloody sands and jungles from Tunisia to Guadalcanal. It is impersonal and reputedly capricious.

The questions today for thousands of civilian shooters concerning competition with the M1 are: Can a civilian do it? Can he get the rifle? Can he make it shoot? Does it require an armorer on the range at all times in order to carry on a .30 caliber match? And, last of all, is it accurate?

I went searching for the answers. In my files of THE

In adopting the M1 to competition, civilian marksmen must realize it is a semiautomatic rifle. Modifications of the rifle and competitive rules should be made in the light of experience with it and not as extensions of practices which worked with the Springfield

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN one up-to-date article was particularly helpful and exactly the sort of thing I wanted. It was Lawrence's story, in August, 1946. For the first time I had an inkling of the problems I was likely to meet at Benning.

I went down to Benning one day before the matches began. A rifle—one from among hundreds—was furnished me. I drove immediately to the rifle range and cleaned my rifle as best I could without disassembling it. I wanted to fire it and get as much dope as possible, and I didn't know how to take it down. Imagine the pink creeping up beneath my collar, if you will, when I was compelled to ask a stranger how to load the thing! I had on a new shooting coat and felt sure that among this group of military-rifle experts would be someone who would question me as to whether it would be safe for me to fire. But I did fire and in a few minutes was smacking the "A" target at 200 yards with satisfying regularity. That night a friend showed me the rifle's innards and I cleaned her up thoroughly.

Squadded practice was arranged for the following morning. It was during this that I really began to understand my M1. My first question on the range was concerning the best method for recording one's sight readings. I went straight to Smitty Brown and his Marines from Quantico. If that bunch couldn't answer my questions, they couldn't be answered. The first

The author suggests to civilian and military alike that best results can be obtained with the M1 in competition if they bottle up their imagination and just aim, hold, and squeeze. Pictured above is a group of ROTC Cadets from the Gordon Military Institute, Barnesville, Ga., who fired in the matches

one is very simple. You just start at 200 yards, for example, and shoot until she's right. Then you turn the elevation screw downward until it stops, counting the clicks as you go. That is your reading. Mine was nine clicks, which is about normal. Then Smitty said most shooters add about three clicks from 200 to 300, about seven or eight from 300 to 500, and about four or five from 500 to 600. These clicks are minutes of angle. I found out that his dope worked perfectly for me.

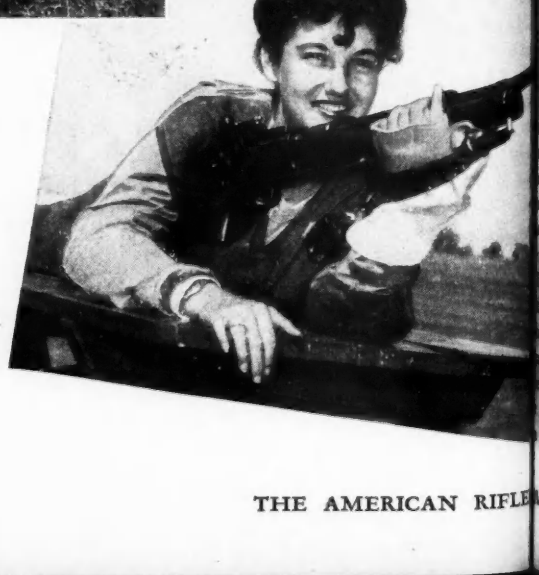
Then, remembering Lawrence's article, I asked Smitty about the necessity for cleaning the gas cylinder internally each night and the probable effect on the zero which I was in the process of finding. His advice was that I should tighten the cylinder head as tightly as possible, check frequently that it remained tight, but not to take the rifle down pletely each night for cleaning. To do so will often, usually, change the zero of the rifle. He emphasized the chamber should be cleaned thoroughly with a brass bru patch. The barrel should be cleaned well at night and dry before firing next morning.

Related to the problem of a constant zero is the prob keeping the front sight tight. Not only must the gas c head be kept absolutely tight but there is a little hexagon (for which an Allen wrench is issued) on the face of the sight base. This must be checked often and kept abs tight. But the rifle will shoot through a tournament w the gas cylinder becoming unduly fouled. It began to on me that there was really nothing difficult about th except ridding oneself of the fears that it would not fu and then just going ahead and shooting it. Jams wer during this tournament and none occurred to me.

The first match of the tournament was fired immed after noon. The weather was cloudy, the temperatur fifty-two degrees, and the wind was blowing at about miles an hour from nine o'clock. Occasional rain drizzled the range. It was muddy in places, th munition was wet, and wet clothing tainly added nothing to what one could for with the rifle.

The experiences we had in this were typical of the entire tournament could very well be applied to all the m fired. Ammunition was the M2 150 flat-base load, reported by some not dependable at 500 and 600 yards. Co ing the various difficulties, such weather at Benning, we found this am

Miss Audrey Richards, the top feminine competitor in the tour was impressed with the M1's



Leatherneck M/Gy Sgt. H. A. Barrett (left) of Parris Island, S. C., winner of the rifle matches, and M/Gy Sgt. A. E. Snyder, also of Parris Island, were among the military contingent present at the first competition with the M1

to be fairly satisfactory at 500 yards, ough I believe that this is its extreme nge on bullseyes now standard.

In the first match I scored a forty-three ffhand, which was not a good score, in ite of the weather, when one considers e excellent balance of the M1 rifle for ffhand shooting. Later offhand scores were tter. I wonder if the errors introduced the long hammer fall and floating firing mentioned by Lawrence are not com-nsated for by the excellent balance and ng of the rifle in the offhand position. It muzzle heavy and swings in slow move-nts after one aligns the sights.

From offhand, we went to the 500-yard nge where I fired my first shot with one ck of left wind. Someone may figure out t one click of left wind is not correct for ifteen-mile-per-hour wind at nine o'clock 500 yards. My score, however, was fired on the extreme t of the range and a high levee paralleled the line of fire m the firing line to the target. My first shot was a five, final score a forty-six. No shot was less than a four. I de no sight changes during the firing. After moving back 600 yards I repeated the same score, making no changes cept to add four clicks of elevation. The experience of some ers at 600 yards was not so fortunate, but after talking many I am convinced that some shooters going on the line h the M1 at 600 yards are licked before they start. They not believe the rifle will produce a score and hence they duce none. A guy like me, who had never been told that e rifle would not shoot at 600, could do better although I, after three days of shooting believe that groups are con-rably larger at 600 yards in proportion to their dispersion 500 yards.

After shooting 150 competitive shots without a single failure ight loosening, I am convinced that big competitions can held with the M1 and that civilians can compete without ficulty. My own place of seventh in the grand aggregate, ng more than 120 of the country's best military marksmen, not better than any other civilian marksman can expect who is ling to forget the ill words spoken about the M1 and who illing to bottle up his imagination and just aim, hold, and eeze.

Concerning future .30 caliber matches, civilian marksmen e a serious responsibility in that they must recognize the tence of a semiautomatic rifle, military conditions, and getary considerations. To be sure, we must make some nges and we must have the courage and the ingenuity to e those changes on the basis of experience with the M1 and as mere modifications of equipment and procedures found ork best with the Springfield rifle.

have suggestions to make, but I have neither the experience the M1, nor the engineering qualifications to criticize. thousands of civilian marksmen in this country, however, fire through a tournament and shoot a rifle and tell her both are working. Benning proved, to me at least, that M1 will work and that tournaments fired with the M1 rifle be real matches. The winners will be those who can shoot best and solve their problems best. After all, that is what we wish to determine and reward.

Personally, I believe that the marksman should be permitted to use any width of front sight and any size of rear aperture that he prefers. The sights now in use are generally agreed to be too large for present-day bullseyes. Furthermore, he should be permitted to remove the flared ears on either side of the front sight blade. If it is thought from the military standpoint that this is too great a modification, then those ears might be bent wider and flatter to insure that the less well-trained civilian marksman will not fire a shot in sustained fire over one of the ears instead of over the front sight blade itself. I almost experienced heart failure in one string at Benning when I found myself taking up the slack in the trigger and aiming over one of those ears.

Although the trigger of the rifle I fired throughout the Benning matches had a decided creep and weighed six pounds, I found a considerable number to have a clean break at five to six pounds. My average offhand in the tournament was just under forty-four. Considering the weather, I do not see how I could use the trigger for an alibi. I am convinced that the old notions we had that a trigger must break clean as a glass rod at just exactly three pounds were things of our imagination. A trigger which breaks clean at five to six pounds is no obstacle.

The locking bar on the right side of the rear sight is difficult to operate and after a day of shooting leaves one with a sore thumb and forefinger. It could easily be replaced by a knurled head lock nut serving precisely the same purpose and not one bit less practical from the military viewpoint. Thus, the complaint that the rear sight does not permit quick adjustments could be somewhat overcome. Furthermore, I heard some shooters complain of lost motion in the rear sight. Mine had none. I do know, however, that after one learns his rifle a click of lost motion is not too serious a problem. Knowing that the click of lost motion is there, the skilled rifleman will allow for it in his adjustments. Looseness in the sight is something else and more serious. Examination indicates, however, that careful fitting, such as any rifleman is capable of, can remove this.

All in all, I'll bet money that soon scores will be forthcoming with the Garand which will satisfy any marksman. ♦ ♦ ♦

The Old Coach

POSITION PRACTICE PAYS

HOME FROM A STATE DIVISIONAL SMALL-BORE TOURNAMENT, a young fellow I helped teach to shoot the rifle wrote me: "I saw that the rifleman isn't made lying on his belly. A four-position match will show for sure just who the rifle shooters are. Offhand really tells but, boy, when a guy talks four positions the others wave their hands and say 'kneeling is too hard'."

This proposition of four-position matches is interesting. Are we afraid of the kneeling and standing positions? Or, are we obsessed with the idea of lying on our belt buckles and straining to get a possible with 10,000 X's? And even if a fellow gets a possible and all those X's, where is it going to get him? As a field shot, which should be the ultimate goal in rifle training, he had just as well play pool or table tennis as far as being a potential danger to the beasts of the field. Of the deer, elk, antelope, and the like that your Old Coach has seen, it is hard to recall any that waited for said hunter to locate a nice soft spot where he could plant his belt buckle. O yes, there was one once! After getting settled all comfylike and ready to squeeze said trigger, I suddenly discovered that I couldn't see the buck for the grass! It was a nice buck, too, and I can hear yet the snaffey snort, a regular Bronx cheer, that the wind blew through the aspens. But there is your story, 99 times out of 100 prone is too low for use in the field. And this is the main reason we must learn to shoot kneeling, sitting, and standing, the three really important of the four positions. Ability to shoot these four positions well means that you are, or should be, a pretty tough *hombre* in the game field.

But as my young friend wrote, and I quote again, "I saw that the rifleman isn't made lying on his belly." I might add that this guy, having been trained in the four positions, knows. They tell me that he takes them as they come, in the position that he instantly decides to use.

The reason so many object to shooting four, or even three positions is, apparently, that it takes a lot of time and work in practice. Some fellows simply do not have the time and others, of course, are satisfied to confine themselves to prone shooting, which is all right. But the fact still remains that to be a trained rifleman one must be proficient in at least three positions.

And just how much time does it take anyway to get good at this position shooting? Well, I asked my oldest son, another Man from Perry who has done a lot of small-bore and .30 caliber competitive firing, how much time, in practice, should be given to each of the four positions. He said, "Taking prone as a base period of time, I'd say that you should practice twice as much for sitting, three times as much for kneeling, and four times as much for standing." That is, he feels that at least four times as much drill is needed to become a good offhand shot as the same person may require for prone practice. And if you question that he knows the score, just send an asbestos message to the haven of eternal rest of a lot of Adolph's 6th SS Panzer Army men who also doubted.

Another Man from Perry who is a very outstanding offhand rifle shot, any caliber, any style, was asked the same question. "It is hard to judge," he replied, "but I'd say that it takes twice as much practice to perfect yourself in the standing position as for the other three positions put together." In other words, when you go to the range to practice this rifleman suggests that you spend at least twice as much time on your standing as you put on prone, sitting, and kneeling together. So you see that good offhand and kneeling shooters are not born that way; they have to work, and work hard for what they get.

With few exceptions most three- and four-position matches are won by high standing scores. Whereas only the number of X's will split the prone scores, the difference in the standing and kneeling scores will run to several full points. Sitting scores should be closer to those of prone, and the difference between such scores will be one or two points.

There used to be a rifle team out in Cheyenne, Wyoming, that was made up of a number of top-notch offhand shooters. I have heard the members of this team tell how they seldom fired any position in practice except offhand. And they were so good that even with their mediocre prone, sitting, and kneeling scores they had little trouble defeating their opponents.

At a two-position match shot by high school boys and girls we find some interesting scores. Boys, first to fifth place, prone 98, standing 86; prone 98, standing 84; prone 99, standing 83; prone 98, standing 83; prone 97, standing 83. For the girls, first to fifth place: Prone 89, standing 88; prone 93, standing 82; prone 94, standing 80; prone 93, standing 79; prone 97, standing 74. These scores will duplicate the average ordinary rifle club scores, I mean the average member's shooting. And, of course, they are far and away ahead of the shooting, offhand especially, of the hosts of "natural-born riflemen" who sally forth every fall with their rusty or rented thutty-thutties.

For persons, male or female, regardless of age, just starting to shoot the rifle a score like the following must not be discouraging: 34 standing, 65 sitting, 68 kneeling, 87 prone. This was shot by a certain fellow who today is an above average rifleman. Bear in mind that we cannot all be Woodrings or Bruces. But thoughtful and careful practice will boost the above novice score to something like 71 standing, 92 sitting, 93 kneeling, 95 prone. This score was fired by a young fellow after a lot of hard practice and is a splendid example of the ratio of scores for the four positions.

For the most advanced here is the score of a fellow who was high individual at a certain state tournament a year or so before the war: 87 standing, 96 sitting, and 99 prone (only the three positions). This is a good score and it won over a lot of good competition.

In shooting pay little or no attention to the score of the other fellow. Shoot against yourself. Keep a record of your own scores and whenever you go on the line try to beat your own best score. This is the only way you will ever get into the medals. And by all means shoot three or four positions every chance you have. To be a trained rifleman you must be able to shoot all four, and remember that it has been and always will be easier to lie down than to stand up.

POWDER SMOKE: THE NEWS DESK . . . READERS COMMENTS

CM SALES OF THE ENFIELD

The Director of Civilian Marksmanship has t yet announced the resumption of sales of nfields. Under "Notes on the Enfield," on ge 43 of the March issue, it was stated that e War Department had released some En-lds to fill pending orders. These were not ough to meet orders on hand at the DCM, which 16,000 are still unfilled.

As fast as Enfields are made available by e Ordnance Department, sales from orders w on hand are approved. The DCM has id that no more orders for Enfields be ered by NRA members until a notice an-ncing the resumption of sales appears in e RIFLEMAN.

E OF EXPERIMENTAL TARGETS TIONAL

At the specific recommendation of the Special all-Bore Committee which met in Wash-on prior to the NRA Directors' Meeting, e use of experimental 100-yard and 50-meter rnament targets, described in December RNAMENT NEWS, will be optional to all nsors of Registered Tournaments in 1947. es for the new targets will be the same as ther tournament targets of the same size. y are available for immediate delivery from National Litho Company.

The new 100-yard target is the same over-ize as the old, but the new 50-meter target e same size as the 50-yard tournament et and requires the use of the smaller ing card.

In order to avoid confusion and to inform ompetitors fully, tournament sponsors will quired to state in their programs when the experimental type of target is to be used. fter studying the new targets and reviewing sults of the questionnaire sent out by the dquarters office, the Special Small-Bore mittee recommended the following:

The experimental 50-meter target meets Committee approval from the standpoint st and handling by tournament or match ials.

In regard to the experimental 100-yard et, from discussion in the Committee, it the opinion that this target would be un-factory for metallic-sight matches but it ed to meet the minimum requirements of -sight matches. It was the Committee ion, in order to make this target satis-ry from the shooters' viewpoint, that it ld be necessary to increase over-all target size to eliminate crowding of "bullseyes." change would outmode existing range ment.

It is recommended that both type targets be experimentally in tournaments during the ing outdoor season and data collected for her study, pending official adoption or tion."

INTERCOLLEGIATE RIFLE MATCHES

National intercollegiate team and individual records fell in the competition for the National Intercollegiate Rifle Championships, held in twelve cities throughout the country on Saturday, March 29. The winning University of Maryland five-man team scored 1408 over the fifty-foot three-position course to break the record fired by the University of Iowa in 1940. Walter Bowling, Jr., a member of the Maryland team, scored 99 prone, 98 kneeling, and 93 off-hand in the individual match to establish a new record of 287. The old mark was 286.

National Junior rifle champ Arthur Cook, of the University of Maryland, finished second in the individual meet with 286. Cook's contribution to the Maryland team's record breaking 1408 was a hot 290.

INDIVIDUAL

1. Walter Bowling, U. of Md.....	99	95	93	287
2. Arthur E. Cook, U. of Md.....	100	94	92	286
3. Charles E. Rogler, U. of Iowa..	99	96	91	286

TEAM

1. University of Maryland.....		1408
A. E. Cook.....	290	
E. Briguglio.....	280	
J. E. Wesson.....	279	
J. M. Decker.....	280	
W. W. Bowling, Jr.....	279	
2. University of Iowa.....		1394
3. U. S. Military Academy.....		1390

One Zeiss Zeilvier scope No. 39245, new bluing. Reward of $25. Robert S. Thomas, 104 Sunnyside Road, Silver Spring, Md.

One Winchester 16 gauge pump shotgun with poly-choke. No. 308629; one pair Bausch and Lomb binoculars 6 x 30 Model EE, No. 269789. Roy S. Sherwood, 116½ Sylvester, Pasco, Wash.

Harrington and Richardson .38 caliber pistol, Model 25 Defender, No. 15538. Page Moss, Box 249, Guntersville, Alabama.

University of Maryland Rifle Team, 1947 National Intercollegiate Champions: (standing, l. to r.) Col. H. C. Griswold, Coach; Walter Bowling; Joseph Decker; T/Sgt. Fay J. Morris, Asst. Coach; (kneeling, l. to r) Arthur Cook; Emanuel Briguglio; Jack E. Wesson

Three rifles loaned to the Brewster Rifle Club by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship: No. 18417B .22 caliber U. S. Springfield, No. 18372B .22 caliber U. S. Springfield, .22 caliber Remington (no serial number). Also stolen, Bausch & Lomb spotting scope and stand No. 283445. Notify Miss Dorothy M. Olbey, Secretary, Brewster Rifle Club, 4750 Tireman, Detroit 4, Mich.

Winchester Model 52 No. 54099, standard barrel, Lyman 52 receiver extension and Vaver front sights. Don K. Williams, 5000 Whitney Ave., Mount Carmel, Conn.

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Southwestern..... Ray Whitaker, 310 Tuloma Bldg., Tulsa, Oklahoma
Midwestern..... Dow Smith, Orpheum Theatre Bldg., Elkhart, Indiana
Southeastern..... Fred Molt, P. O. Box 7466, 125½ College St., Asheville, N. C.
Washington Metropolitan.. C. L. Floyd, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N. W., Washington, D. C.
Far Southwestern..... Lee Echols, Medico-Dental Bldg., Room 101, 3rd & A Streets, San Diego, Calif.
Northeastern..... E. F. Bridgman, Room 408, 175 State Street, Springfield, Mass.
North Central..... S. R. Hinds, 816 Pence Bldg., 8th & Hennepin, Minneapolis, Minn.

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The SPOTTING SCOPE With RAY STANN

Random shots from the grapefruit circuit. . . . Florida winter shooting returned with a bang with the revival of the National Mid-Winter Pistol Championships at Tampa . . . altho rifle was conspicuously absent. . . . The biggest turnout (302) of pistol shooters ever showed up at Smitty Brown's classic. . . . But it was the same old story . . . Harry (Moon-face) Reeves way ahead of the field, taking all aggregates except the .22 . . . but happiest guy in the field was Martin (Le Moose) Taylor of Detroit, winning nothing but more friends . . . Moose prematurely celebrated winning one event, found out the next day he'd lost ten points when two shots went through the same hole, of course . . . "Le Moose" then announced his retirement from competition . . . definitely. . . . Far more likely, however, is the impending retirement from competitive shooting of veteran Jake Engbrecht, who is also due for retirement from the L.A police force . . . it will be the game's loss.

Much of the prewar color was back . . . fish fry and floor show, annual dinner, competitors from all over this country, Cuba, and Mexico . . . and then a contingent of Americans flew and shipped over to Havana for the First Annual Competencia Pan-Americana de Tiro de Pistola y Revolver (Pan American Pistol and Revolver Competitions) . . . three teams of Quantico Marines and the Los Angeles Police; Lt. Ward Rainwater of Lansing, Mich.; Bob Sutton of Jacksonville; Austin Coller of Culver City, Calif.; Joe Nikoden of Detroit; John Freitag of Chicago; Don Robinson of Enfield, Maine; Audrey Richard the only feminine entry in the matches.

Impressive to Americans was the beauty of the Military City range used by the Havana Pistol Club and the operation of the matches . . . but not Havana's inflated prices. . . . Competition consisted of one Mexican Defense Course Match followed by three days of .45, .38, and .22 caliber competition over standard NRA courses of fire . . . with Los Angeles' Emmett Jones showing the way in a driving wind and (on the final day) a driving rain.

Despite language differences and some difficulty with names (examples: Emmeriett Jones and J. J. Engelbicht), hard-working George Vaulot, Humberto Medrano, and Captain Hernandez Hernando Hernandez put on a match comparable to U. S. events.

☆ ☆ ☆

Legislative Front: All quiet nationally and in most states since the threat of Wiley and Carson bills was dissolved.

☆ ☆ ☆

Typical of many letters to come into NRA Headquarters is one from John S. McIlhenny of Baton Rouge, La., wondering how and why outdoor writers get copies of THE RIFLEMAN ahead of subscribers. . . . Not so. The articles you may see in newspapers concerning THE RIFLEMAN get there through advance releases prepared by our Public Relations Division, not through advance issues of the magazine.

COMING EVENTS

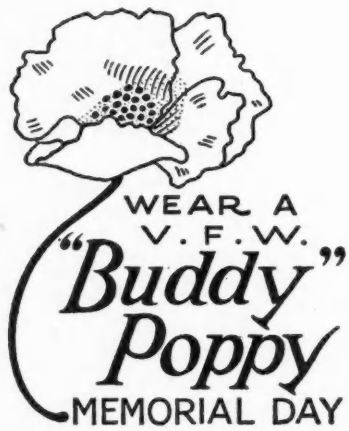
The four classes of registered tournaments are indicated as follows:

AA—National Matches.
A—Regional Tournaments.
B—State Championship or large district matches.
C—Local tournaments.
Un—Indicates tournaments that are not registered.

Tournaments requiring Advance Entries are indicated by **Adv** and tournaments that plan to limit the entries to a predetermined number are indicated by **Ltd.**

MAY

10, California (C)—Gallery Pistol & Rev. H. O. Peters, 706 Third St., San Rafael.
10-11, Texas (B)—Southwest Small-bore. V. A. Moore, 208 North Akard St., Dallas.
10-11, Ohio (C)—9th Annual Spring Rifle Tournament. H. W. Meiser, P. O. Box 48, Marietta, Ohio.
10-11, Pennsylvenia (Un)—Annual Spring Muzzle-Loading Shoot, at Shartlesville. Dr. James E. Hirtle, Jr., 27 S. Walnut St., Bath.
11, Minnesota (B)—Minnesota State Pistol Match. Eunice L. Ford, 1577 Ashland Ave., St. Paul.
11, Wisconsin (Un)—Southeastern League Gallery Rifle Match. Col. Joseph J. Ring, 1842 North 83rd St., Wauwatosa.



11, Wisconsin (C)—2nd Gallery Rifle Tournament, at Milwaukee. John R. Weist, 220 N. East Avenue, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin.
11, New York (Un)—Metropolitan Rifle League .30 caliber matches, at Peekskill. Mrs. Eric Bolton, 16 Storm St., Dobbs Ferry.
11, Tennessee (C)—Class C Pistol Tournament. Frank B. Hill, 2902 Snowden Rd., Nashville.
11, Pennsylvania (C)—11th Annual Spring Small-bore Rifle Tournament. Alfred M. Newhard, 111 E. Susquehanna St., Allentown. (Ltd.)
17-18, Tennessee (B)—Tennessee State Small-bore Championships. A. W. Nine, 104 Underwood Place, Knoxville.
17-18, New Jersey (Un)—First Annual Pistol Match. Ralph R. Viscose, 48 Webster Ave., Paterson.
17-18, Texas (B)—Southwestern Pistol Tournament. Jack McPhee, 2837 Forest Ave., Dallas.
18, Oregon (C)—Class C Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Portland. E. Barrien, Rt. 12, Box 894, Milwaukee.
18, Pennsylvania (C)—3rd Annual Spring Small Bore Rifle Champ, at Locksley Sta. Mary Jane Oster, 2800 Township Line, Llanerch. (Ltd.)
18, New York (C)—1st Annual Zoar Valley Small Bore Rifle. Donald Smith, 149 N. Water St., Gowanda.
18, Illinois (Un)—.30 Caliber Matches, at Fort Sheridan. Thomas Blakemore, 5004 West Huron St., Chicago.
18, Maryland (C)—Spring Small-bore Rifle Tournament at Middle River. Roy Andrews, 708 Highwood Drive, Baltimore. (Adv.-Ltd.)
18, Wisconsin (Un)—Wisconsin Rifle Ass'n. Jr. Match. Col. Joseph J. Ring, 1842 No. 63rd St., Wauwatosa.
18, Arizona (B)—Arizona State Championship at Phoenix. Mack Weiss, Box 1024, Prescott.
18, New York (C)—13th Hudson Valley Small-bore Championship. Dr. James L. Orr, 33 Woodlawn Ave., Poughkeepsie.
18, California (C)—San Francisco Police Monthly Pistol Tournament at Lake Merced. Emile J. Dutil, 324 16th Avenue, San Francisco.
24-25, New York (C)—Duchess County Spring Pi... Tournament at New Hackensack. Martha Strak... 30 Arnold Blvd., Poughkeepsie.
24-25, Ohio (C)—2nd Annual Ohio Valley Champi... ship Small-bore. Mrs. Betty Vandeveer, ... Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati.
24-25, Texas (B)—Texas State Small Bore Champi... ship. John F. Callan, 405 E. 30th St., Austin.
24-25, Vermont (C)—Fellows Second Annual Sm... bore Tournament. Richard Wienka, R. F. D. ... Springfield.
25, Missouri (C)—Class C Small Bore Rifle Tour... ment at Ellisville. H. E. Kobermann, 3423 ... ginia Ave., St. Louis.
25, Michigan (C)—Peach Blossom Rifle Mat... St. Joseph. Emil Tosi, Stevensville.
25, Connecticut (Un)—Big-bore Match at Wallingfo... A. J. Griffin, Conn. State Rifle and Rev. Ass'... Middlefield.
25, Connecticut (Un)—Hartford Rifle Club 50 ... offhand match. Kurt Billeb, 839 Wetherfield A... Hartford.
25, New York (C)—2nd Annual Spring Small-b... at Canandaigua. Olin G. LeRoy, 3 Bernice ... Rochester.
25, Maryland (C)—Western Maryland Rifle Cha... pionship. Gurney A. Beeman, 39 Beall St., Fr... burg.
30, Pennsylvania (C)—Memorial Day Small-b... Tournament. Ed. W. Cook, 926 Orr Avenue, ... tanning, Pa.
31, Idaho (B)—Idaho State Pistol Champions... William Buskett, 2202 Madison Ave., Boise.
30-1, New Jersey (B)—9th Annual Sea Girt St... bore Champ., at Sea Girt. Charles J. Walter, ... Cornell St., Perth Amboy. (Adv.)
31-1, Florida (B)—3rd Annual South Fla. Spr... Rifle Championship. R. O. Sinclaire, 333 Seag... Ave., Palm Beach. (Adv.)
31-1, Pennsylvania (C)—Central Pa. Small-bore P... Tournament. R. B. Barry, 407 Second Ave., Alto...

JUNE

1, New York (C)—7th Annual Smallbore at Nas... Bert J. Czwakiel, 517 New Scotland Ave., Alb...
1, Iowa (C)—Iowa State Rifle Ass'n., Restri... Small-bore at Camp Dodge. V. E. Blosser, 3... Amick Ave., Des Moines.
1, Missouri (C)—3rd Registered Rifle Tourna... Mrs. Ruth L. Beals, Route 8, North Kansas C...
1, California (Un)—Oakland Pistol Matches. J... Valerga, Jr., 3800 Cerrito Ave., Oakland.
1, California (Un)—Southland Pistol Match. R... Pease, Police Range, 40th and A Sts., San Dieg...
1, Michigan (C)—Small-bore Spring Rifle Tournam... at Wyandotte. Gerald Spitler, 1653 Wilson, Lin... Park.
1, Idaho (B)—Idaho State Small Bore Champions... William Buskett, 2202 Madison Ave., Boise.
1, Illinois (C)—Class C Small Bore Rifle. K... Brewer, 387 Manor Place, Aurora.
7, South Carolina (C)—Greenville Rifle Classifica... Tournament. Raymond W. Poore, 113 Chan... St., Greenville.
7-8, Utah (B)—Utah State Small Bore Rifle Ch... pionship at Fort Douglas. George Barcus, 755 ... 5th South, Salt Lake City.
7-8, New York (B)—1st Annual Met. District S... bore Championships at Bethpage. Ed Moore, ... 257th St., Floral Park. (Adv.-Ltd.)
8, Indiana (C)—Small-bore Rifle Tournament. H... K. Rhodes, 3015 Noble St., Anderson.
8, Wisconsin (C)—Milwaukee District Small-... Match. Col. Jos. J. Ring, 1842 North 83rd ... Wauwatosa.
8, Michigan (C)—Ann Arbor Police Spring ... Tournament. H. G. Schlupe, c/o Police D... Ann Arbor.
8, Pennsylvania (C)—Annual Philadelphia Area S... bore at Cold Point. W. H. Bahrenburg, Sr., ... E. Orleans St., Philadelphia.
8, Pennsylvania (C)—Annual Class C Small-... Tournament at Harrisburg. Jay L. Smith, ... Walnut St., Camp Hill. (Adv.)
8, New York (C)—Harvey Championship Rifle Tou... ment at Oneida. George R. Story, Jr., Box ... Vernon.
8, Colorado (B)—Colorado State Small Bore Ma... at Camp George West. L. F. Markle, 1006 ... St., Denver.
8, Illinois (Un)—.30 Caliber Matches at Fort S... dan. Thomas Blakemore, 5004 West Huron ... Chicago.
14, California (C)—Gallery Pistol & Revolver (N... Tournament. H. O. Peters, 706 Third St., ... Rafael.
13-14-15, California (B)—Pacific States Champio... Pistol Tournament. Emile J. Dutil, Police D... ment, Hall of Justice, San Franciso.
14-15, Connecticut (B)—Conn. State Champi... Small Bore Tournament at Wallingford. A. J... fin, Conn. State Rifle & Revolver Assn., Middle...
14-15, Maryland (B)—8th Annual Maryland Re... and Pistol Championship. Gerard F. Hoe... Sparrows Point Police Dept., Sparrows Point.
14-15, Oklahoma (B)—7th Annual Magic E... Small Bore Tournament. Frank M. Parks, ... Elgin, Apt. 311, Tulsa.

RICOCHETS

AT TO DO WITH HOGSHEAD?

Philadelphia, Penna.

or:

ne impediment to ballistic research in this ntry has been the lack of a suitable generic e for a class of cartridges more powerful n the "Magnum." There is no point to de- ing such cartridges if you do not know what all them.

propose the name "Jeroboam" for such ridges. Just as "magnum" is a large bottle wine, so a "Jeroboam" is a *very* large bottle wine. Suitable cartridges would be the .300 oboam, based on the .50 MG case, unless r claim is made by someone using 20 mm. kon brass.

HAROLD WOOSTER, PH. D.

. S. One obvious variant would be applied cartridge overloaded to the point where it s up a Mauser or other German action— h a cartridge would be a "Jerry-boom!"

LISTIC TABLES

Buffalo, N. Y.

lor:

n my opinion a fine article, "A Hunter ks at Killing Power" by Edmund Waters, he January RIFLEMAN, was ruined by a dis- tant note—that paragraph wherein he made a misstatement or two in support of the rating given that all-time, all-rounder, the '06. It is true the many loadings of the '06 make it possible to pick your poison when ing comparisons. But any 150 or 180 grain et in any factory loading of the '06 drops han eleven inches at 300 yards when the is zeroed for 200. It has enough velocity aining to make a favorable comparison any load on deer.

ferring to some of the ballistic tables of ing companies, it is not surprising that queer statements now and then appear rint. One states that the rather flat- ted 130 grain Silvertip bullet of the .270 the identical ballistic rating of the sharp- ted 130 grain P. E. bullet. Maybe so; o written.

ditors must stand guard to see that the figures are not misinterpreted.

L. B. MARTIN.

X 62 MAUSER

McAllen, Texas.

or:

wish to congratulate THE RIFLEMAN and S. R. Truesdell on the excellence of Mr. sdell's series, "The Development of the for Big Game." He has covered the ct in a masterly manner, although I it might have been possible for him ve brought the history up to 1940.

cidently, I own a couple of fine old cartridge hammer rifles that are supposed to have belonged to Sir Samuel Baker. One is a 4 bore, single-barrel saddle gun, the other a double 8 bore, which weighs more than twenty pounds.

I wish Mr. Truesdell had emphasized the importance and value of a couple of calibers which have become popular in the big-game countries in recent years, and which greatly appealed to me on my later visits to Africa. One is the 9.3x62 mm. Mauser, certainly one of the best "all-round" rifles that I have ever fired. I have used this rifle with excellent effect on polar bear and walrus, but have never had opportunity to try it on elephant, buffalo, and rhino. The other is the 9.3x74 mm. rimmed cartridge, a powerful piece of fodder when used in a properly constructed arm. The 7 mm. also is good, but today, if I still could shoot a rifle and were again to visit Africa, India, and Indo-China, I should stick to a 9.3x62 mm. Mauser, and a good English double ejector, a .450, .465, or .470. With a .577 or a .600, one simply is overgunned. All of these big guns are cumbersome. And, because of the huge caliber, the neophyte may be led to believe that he can at will stop any animal in its tracks. This belief is fallacious, and sooner or later will get him into serious trouble.

The rifle should be well-balanced and "handy," and the shooter thoroughly familiar with it. Sutherland used to spend some time each day just throwing his pet rifle to his shoulder and pointing it. I learned to do the same thing with a light shotgun and found it a valuable practice. You should so train your muscles and your eye that when the butt hits your shoulder, the barrel is correctly aligned and on the mark. Ultimately, it becomes automatic.

RICHARD L. SUTTON, M.D.

1947 SUMMER LEAGUES

The NRA will again conduct the Summer League Championships. In a short time the secretaries of all NRA affiliated organizations will receive copies of the conditions and entry blanks. Entries will be accepted until June 30, 1947. Leagues should start planning now for the 1947 Outdoor League Program.

WELL, LISTEN TO THE TONE!

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Editor:

Almost every day in our big County Library I have to stop and demonstrate to a patron by simple eighth-grade arithmetic how to convert English inches into French meters and reverse, because he has been misinformed in your pages, such as page 52 of your December, 1946, issue, and insists in his ignorance that "7.65 mm. equal .32 in., and 9 mm. equal .38 in." because you say so.

Now one millimeter equals .03937 inch and one inch equals 25.4 millimeters. We had nothing to do with this arrangement. You may blame Boethius in 525 A. D., Stevin in 1582, Napoleon in 1800 or the King of England, but by this arrangement

7.65	mm.	equal	.30118	in.
9	mm.		.35433	in.
75	mm.		2.95	in.
.22	in.	equals	5.588	mm.
.3	in.		7.62	mm.
.32	in.		8.128	mm.
.38	in.		9.652	mm.

I haven't mentioned guns, birds or apples, lands or grooves; the above decimals are indisputably true, regardless, just as .3, .30, .300 and .3000000 are all equal, whether it is 3/10 of a gramme, a horsepower or a light-year, and the poor mistaken reader can't be convinced that your .300 rifle is identical in bore to my .30, whether I elaborate into 1906 Springfield or 1946 Garand, or that you may label my .38 as .380 and not change its size any more than Toscanini can alter one little black note on my piano just by naming it E flat today and D sharp tomorrow—it's always the same tone!

CARL CRAMER.

Nowhere on page 52 of the December, 1946, issue do we find the statement that "7.65 mm. equal .32 in., and 9 mm. equal .38 in." though it is implied by the following: "The . . . pistol . . . was made in the 7.65 mm. (.32 A. C. P. caliber)," and ". . . the 9 mm. short cartridge . . . is the same as the .380 A. C. P." For all practical purposes the statements from page 52 are true, the .32 caliber cartridge measuring .311 in. in diameter and the .38 caliber measuring .357 in.—ED.

OLDEST RIFLE CLUB

Hartford, Conn.

Editor:

Under Powder Smoke recently I noticed that the Rhode Island Rifle Club is seventy years old and that it is surpassed in record as the oldest active rifle club only by the Massachusetts Rifle Association's Walnut Hill Club. This statement is erroneous. Our club surpasses Walnut Hill in age by eleven years.

KURT BILLEB, *Secretary*,
Hartford Rifle Club, Inc.

V951 5 MAY 47 XUM

DOPE BAG

Conducted by Major General J. S. Hatcher
Edwards Brown, Jr., A. H. Barr, J. L. Murphy, J. S. Rose

Which Winchester 52 to Choose · Rimless Single-Shot Extractors · Advantage of 6X or 8X Attachment · Miniature Cartridges New Super C · .375 Magnum Performance Bullet Base Protection · Matte Finish on Metal Parts · Bull Pup Rifle · Browning an Antique Gun · Whiteman Checkering Tools

WHICH WINCHESTER 52 TO CHOOSE

I want to get a new Winchester 52 target rifle and I am wondering if it should be the standard weight, the heavy barrel, or the bull gun. Do you think the few extra pounds in heavier rifles make a noticeable difference in holding?

What .22 caliber guns do most of the match shooters use? Would different brands of ammunition make a difference?

With one sight setting what is the maximum range at which the Winchester 52 will place bullets on the point of aim?—L. A. WARNER, Manchester, Indiana.

Answer; Individual rifles vary in accuracy but on the average the heavy-barrel 52 and the bull gun will provide better accuracy than the standard barrel. This, however, is not a hard and fast rule. I have seen one 52 standard barrel which would shoot groups as good as the best heavy barrels.

Practically all of the top-flight target shooters use the heavier-barrelled guns, some preferring the Remington Model 37, others the Winchester 52 heavy barrel, and others the single shots with special barrels.

Accuracy does vary with different brands of ammunition. Some rifles shoot tops with one brand and some with others. It is necessary to try different brands in your particular rifle to see which one performs best.

A rifle with telescope-height sights, approximately 1.5 inches above the bore, when sighted in for 50 feet is also sighted in for about 50 yards. With the .22 Long Rifle cartridge it is not possible to use the same sight setting for two long ranges. For example, when the rifle is sighted in at 100 yards it would also be sighted in for approximately 35 feet.—E. B.

RIMLESS SINGLE-SHOT EXTRACTORS

A. E. Mashburn, who has made a very satisfactory rimless extractor for single-shot rifles, now has one that works very well in double- or three-barrel guns. The one we tried was on a rechambered .35 Whelen, originally a 9 mm., I believe. Accuracy was very good, considering the open sights. The few shots grouped in approximately three inches at 100 yards for each barrel, but the entire group for the two barrels of the light hunting rifle was six inches.

Extraction with the small spring-backed plungers was entirely satisfactory, at least in this rifle which was a double-barreled job. These rimless extractors should be a boon to the owners of many of those foreign rifle-and-shotgun combinations. Be sure that the gun in question is strong enough to handle a suitable rimless cartridge or load without danger of blowing up the gun when rechambered.—A. H. B.

ADVANTAGE OF 6X AND 8X ATTACHMENT

I am getting a Winchester Model 70 target-grade rifle, caliber .220 Swift and I would like some information on the type of scope that would be best for my purposes.

This rifle will be used for all kinds of varmint shooting under all sorts of light conditions. Some of it will be timber shooting at close range while part of the time I will be hunting on open prairie at ranges up to 400 yards.

I had tentatively planned to use a Weaver K-4 scope with a Lee Dot reticule, size to subtend one inch at 100 yards. One person suggested that I use a Weaver K2.5 with Litschert 6-power attachment and that this small dot would then be O.K. Does this arrangement have any advantage? Does the Litschert attachment have to be adjusted for focus at various ranges? What size dot would you recommend?—ROBERT H. MILLER, Burlington, Kansas.

Answer: The Weaver K-4 scope would be a good choice but there is an advantage to be gained from the K2.5 with the higher-powered attachment. If you get a 2½-power scope with a dot covering 2.4 minutes it will be ideal for running shots on game such as coyotes. It would also be fine for deer.

Now put on the 6-power attachment and in addition to having the greater power you have a dot covering one minute. The reason for this is that the dot is not magnified any more than it was with the 2½-power scope but the image of the target is larger. Therefore, the relative size of the dot is effectively reduced by 2.4 or inversely proportional to the power.

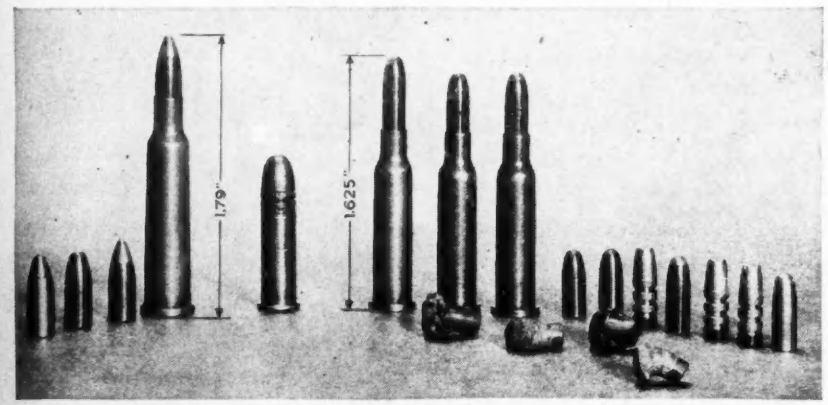
This advantage of the attachments has not been advertised to my knowledge but in mind it should be a great selling point. The above-mentioned relationship holds good if the reticule is placed at the focal length of the objective lens or the focal length of the eyepiece. It would not hold true, however, if the reticule is at the focal length of the objective lens and the erecting system magnifies. This latter condition is the exception rather than the rule in most scopes.

As the power of a scope is increased the scope becomes more sensitive to parallax adjustment. This is the reason for the adjustable objective lenses on attachments for great power. I think, however, you will find it unnecessary to make adjustments to accommodate for ranges of 100 yards and over with the 6-power. In this respect the attachment is not different from any other 6-power scope.—E. B.

MINIATURE CARTRIDGES

Alton Jones, 6633 S. E. 92nd Ave., Portland, Oregon, makes rifles of .14 caliber for his own use. He has used them for more than twenty-five years. The actual bore diameter is .14 inch with .149-inch groove diameter, with a rifling twist of one turn in five inches. The bullet weight is 17 grains and he gets one hole to 1½ inches at 100 yards for 10-shot groups using du Pont No. 2400 powder. The bullet almost penetrates ⅜-inch boiler plate at 100 yards.

The K-Hornet case is used for the .17 caliber with groove diameter of .171 inch and .15 inch bore diameter, with a rifling twist of one turn in 12 inches. He calls the .17 caliber the Scorpion. The 5.5 mm. Velo-Dog case is used for the .140 caliber. The illustration gives a comparison of the .17, .14, and .22 Long Rifle rim-fire cartridges.—A. H. B.



For over twenty-five years Alton Jones of Portland, Oregon, has been using rifles in .14 and .17 caliber which he made. To the left of the .22 Long Rifle cartridge above are three bullets and one cartridge of .17 caliber; to the right are bullets and cartridges of .14 caliber

THE NEW SUPER "C"

The Ken Company is now placing on the market a compensator attachment to the Polychoke device. We have received a sample model for examination. It consists of a tube 2¾ inches long secured to the constriction sleeve of the standard Polychoke. There are six slots on each side similar to those of the Cutts Compensator.

There is no constriction at the forward end of the slotted tube like that on the Cutts. The selective choke is provided by the Polychoke device. The purpose of the Ken Super "C" is to improve patterns and reduce recoil. The tube turns with the Polychoke sleeve and does not interfere with the normal choke adjustment of the Polychoke.

We did some shooting with this attachment on a 12 gauge Remington automatic shotgun. For comparison we took off the sleeve on which the Super "C" was mounted and replaced it with a regular Polychoke sleeve. There was a noticeable increase in recoil when the Super "C" was removed. We have not yet tested the Super "C" for pattern improvement as this will require the shooting of hundreds of rounds in order to obtain conclusive results.—E. B.

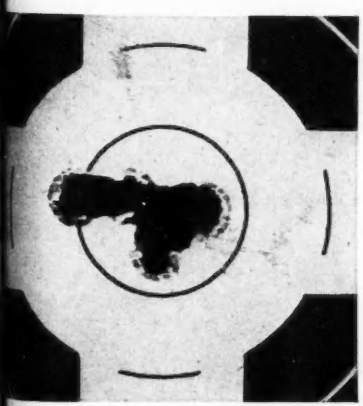
.375 MAGNUM PERFORMANCE OUTSTANDING

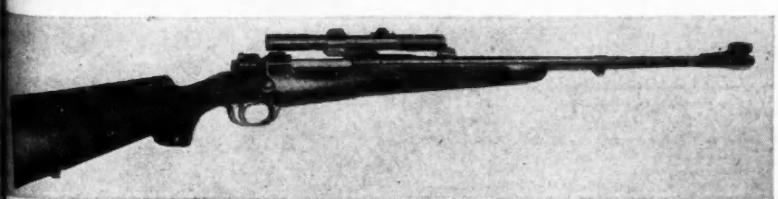
I read the Dope Bag of the RIFLEMAN with great deal of interest and the articles that have appeared there from time to time about the .375 H & H were partly responsible for my decision to try that cartridge. I had W. A. Sukalle of Phoenix, Arizona, fit a barrel for the .375 H & H to a magnum Mauser rifle I had made some years ago. Last summer I began trying experimental loads in this rifle, using factory components I had purchased before the war. The .375 turned out to be one of the most honest rifles I have ever owned. It shoots the same, day in and day out, with almost any load that is heavy enough.

Last October I took this rifle to the Jackson Hole country (Wyoming) and fired one shot with it. Charging it with the whole cost of the trip, that one shot was fairly expensive, but it got me a very good bull elk.

Herewith is a photostat of the best target I have made with this rifle. I realize the target is unusual and that I cannot duplicate it just any time. But the rifle will shoot very close; better, than I can hold.

The specifications of my rifle are as follows: Barrel—24 inches, 1¼ inches diameter at receiver ring, and 11/16 inch diameter at the muzzle, bore diameter .368, groove diameter .375, made of chrome molybdenum steel. The stock was made by Ralph Pike, the scope reticule by Lee, the iron sights by Lyman—aperture on cocking piece and gold bead on ramp, the front of scope mount made by Stith and rear end by Redfield. The magnum Mauser action was bought from Mauser about 1938. The rifle, with scope, weighs 10⅞ pounds.—R. V. W. NEGLEY, San Antonio, Texas.





The five-shot group (at top) was fired at 100 yards by R. V. W. Negley, San Antonio, Texas, with his .375 Magnum (at bottom) which is fitted with a Sukalle barrel on a Mauser action

Answer: We receive many questions regarding the suitability of the .375 H & H Magnum for all kinds of big-game hunting. The very complete information which Mr. Negley gives here tells the story.

The accuracy of Negley's rifle, together with the fact that it is powerful enough to cope with an angry grizzly or Alaskan brownie at short range, makes it an excellent all-around big-game rifle. Some shooters may figure it is too much rifle for lugging after the smaller big game. It is on the heavy side but, boy, what a sweet rifle!—E. B.

BULLET BASE PROTECTION

I have noticed several articles in the Dope Bag about .30-'06 bullet jackets stuck in the barrel. A safe remedy for this threat is to use an inverted gas check at the base of the bullet, seating the bullet far enough out of the case neck so that the gas check does not fall inside of case. The weight of the gas check approximately offsets the weight of metal displaced by hollow pointing these military bullets.

I make no claim as to the originality of this idea, but merely wish to pass it on.—BUFORD BALLARD, LaHabra, Calif.

MATTE FINISH ON METAL PARTS

This may be an old story, but I'll pass it along for what it's worth.

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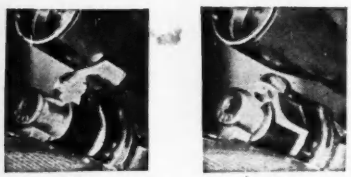

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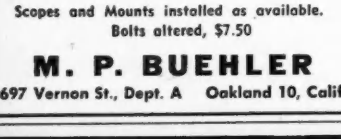

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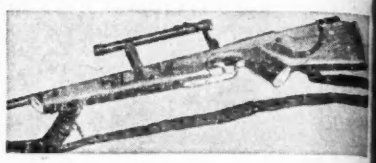
BULL PUP RIFLE

I am enclosing a photograph of a Bull Pup I have made up and used the last five years in our Michigan deer hunting. It is an Enfield action lightened up and with the rear sight removed. The gun weighs 8¾ pounds, is 5-shot capacity and is 35 inches overall with stock 27¾ inches long. The center of scope,



which is a Weaver 1X, is mounted 2⅝ inches above center of bore and ⅜-inch offset to the left.

The trigger is hinged on the trigger guard. The top of the trigger swings back and actuates the trigger rod, which curves part way down inside the grip, passing under the front guard screw and magazine and goes through a metal guide set in the wood of stock about one inch ahead of the regular trigger, against the center of which the trigger rod bears.

The gun is disassembled by removing the bolt and pulling the trigger back as far as it will go and inserting a small wedge-shaped piece of wood or metal on top of sear to hold the regular trigger in the rearward position and release the spring tension on the trigger rod. Then the buttplate, grip cap, and trigger guard assembly together are removed with the trigger. The forward half of the trigger rod can now be removed, separating it under the front guard screw, where it slides into a tubular rod which is the rear half of the trigger rod. The guard screws can now be removed and after the barrel band screw is removed the action can be taken from the stock.

The front guard screw is under the grip cap and the rear guard screw is about one inch ahead of the buttplate where it can be worked upon through an opening in the end of buttstock. Guard screws have 5/8-inch steel washers under heads bearing against the wood.—LESTER KALBFLEISCH, Levering, Michigan.

BROWNING AN ANTIQUE GUN

Wishing to restore a "Brown Bess" flintlock to as near "as issued" condition as possible I would appreciate some advice.

The rust I have removed by using a chemical process, but this leaves a gray matte finish which I would like to rework to something similar to that on the gun originally. What type of finish was used in those days? How to obtain it? The finish on the stock is marred and discolored. What would you advise here? —LAVERN WITTLOCK, Bayport, N. Y.

Answer: The best thing you can do to refinish that gunstock is to remove all the old finish, sand it down smooth with the finest of sandpaper and then refinish using linseed oil, which was the favorite preparation for those old guns.

The brown finish on the metal parts will not be so easily obtained. The formula for the browning preparation is equal weights of antimony, trichloride, and nondrying vegetable oil, such as olive oil or colza. These are stirred together and gently warmed until a perfectly uniform paste results. This is then applied to the barrel with a woolen cloth.

is really a rusting process and after y-four hours the metal will be covered red rust. Then it must be oiled and the rubbed off. The same steps must be re- until a uniform, smooth, sufficiently reddish-brown coating is obtained. It from ten days to two weeks to do the After the last application, dry and oil.— B.

TEMAN CHECKERING TOOLS

est Whiteman, 425 Broadway, Wellsville, has been making the famous J. R. White- checkering tools for the past two years or These popular tools are available in three spacers of 14 to 28 lines per inch, for rough and finishing, and bordering two different types. One of these is pular Bead type and the other the Con- pe used on many European guns. Also le are bent Swiss needle files to get corners where the V-tool cannot be These bent files can be used also for ing old, worn checkering.

complete set of tools is $8.00. Re- ing only the Whiteman checkering tools her Ernest Whiteman service. White- tes that he is about seven weeks behind ers and his limited service does not per- discount to dealers. These Whiteman ing tools have long been popular and ld be well worth waiting your turn for One ad in the December RIFLEMAN rd Whiteman with orders. Bottoming ll be made available when time per- —A. H. B.

D MAGAZINE

the Dope Bag you have given several s of altering the Enfield magazine so in hunting cartridges will not catch on t side of the barrel and shear off half t.

trouble is not in the magazine, but in t side of receiver. By examining the you will see that where the receiver s in, it does so with quite an abrupt e. The shoulder should be ground or f to a straight taper. The right side does d to be touched, but there is too much on the left which throws nearly all n cartridges too far to the right. A of the bolt face just above the shoulder cut away. This is very simple and ne, and will let any .30-'06 cartridge ly into the barrel. One can use a file e job, but I use a Dremel Moto Tool l). I have met hunters in the woods e having this trouble and they would e rifle in and have the shoulder cut It is about a 15-minute job. Put some n cartridges in and work them through slow motion and you will see what —HIRAM J. STEVENS, Luzerne, Michi-

ON ENFIELD MAGAZINES

e past fifteen years I had three 1917 rifles of .30-'06 caliber. However, I ays had trouble with the 180 grain t bullets and the 220 grain bullets. all soft-point bullets with blunt noses bjected to jamming when the bolt the left ones in the chamber. This would strike the shoulder in the on the right side, which is milled out the extractor spring. Until this year, ut up with this inconvenience. After

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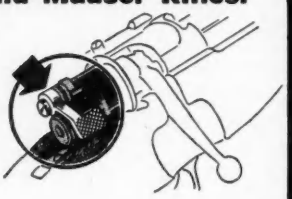

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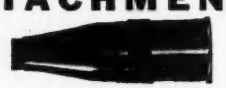

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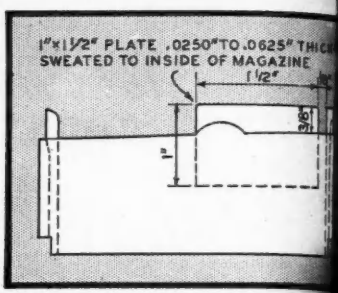
Klaig's MILLVALE, PENNSYLVANIA

giving the matter some thought I decid[ed] solder a strip of brass one inch long by .02[5] thick to the left inside top part of the mag[azine] letting it run up in the receiver, just belo[w] bolt stop lip on the left side. After a [little] difficulty in getting the right fit, it wo[rked] Now the cartridges will chamber as fa[r] the bolt can be operated. I haven't see[n]



article in THE RIFLEMAN or elsewhere [on] to cure this headache with the Enfield, [see] the suggestion on page 56 of the January [1960] issue.—L. G. ELMER, Rome, N. Y.

Answer: To try this suggestion a p[iece] copper 1½ inches long, 1 inch wide, [and] inch thick was used. After beveling th[e] it was sweated to the top left side, clear[ing] back end by at least ⅛ inch. The pl[ate] tended ⅜ inch above the top edge [of] magazine. Except for the height, the location did not seem to bother. The should be less than 1/16 inch thick to [allow] space for the magazine follower to work [smoothly] out jamming. This alteration seems to [work] as well as the suggestion in the January [issue] it is an even simpler solution to the pro[blem] —A. H. B.

LIGHT MAUSER ACTION

Please advise me which of the follo[wing] cartridges is suitable for use in a sporting [rifle] ser action without the clip loading cut o[ut] left side of the receiver and with a flu[sh] ceiver ring approximately 1⅛ inches in [di]eter. The cartridges are .22-250, .220 Swift, Wilson Arrow, .257 Roberts, .257 Weath[erby] .270 Winchester, and .270 Weatherby. I [am] using maximum loads and standard-leng[th] ceiver.—W. S. POTTER, Lafayette, Ind.

Answer: Any good Mauser 1898-type [action] will safely handle the various cartridges [you] mention, but there would probably be [some] magazine alterations so as to make th[em] feed from the magazine. For the longer [car]tridges, such as the .270 Winchester or [the] Magnum, for magazine feeding, you will have to have the action altered by cutting [off] part of the ramp in front, because the sh[ort] 8mm. cartridge is shorter than our .270. It is about a $3.50 job through Johnson Automatics Mfg. Co., Providence, R. I., or [other] sources. For the shorter .250 Savage, Swift, and others, this alteration would [not be] necessary.—A. H. B.

UNKNOWN POWDER

I have some shotgun powder, but I [don't] know what kind it is. Perhaps if I de[scribe] it to you, you could tell me.

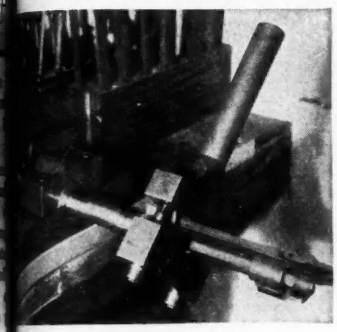
It consists of two different-shaped [grains] or pellets mixed together. The one is a thin flake about 1/16 inch square. The [other] a round pellet 1/16-inch diameter, 1/32 inch with a small hole in the center.

ld be very grateful to you if you can
is powder and tell how much to use for
mum 12 gauge load.—EDWARD SCHOTT,
lle, Ill.

r: I am sorry we cannot identify the
shotgun powder you have. We do ad-
inst even thinking of using any brand
der not properly labeled—whether it is
otgun, or pistol powder.—A. H. B.

L VISE

S. Vickerman, 208 S. Ruby St., Ellens-
Washington, has made a good-looking
nd-action vise. The wrench is ad-
e to accept almost any action: bolt ac-
gle shot, or otherwise. This is an item
should appeal to gunsmiths who do re-
ring and barrel-fitting services.
the tightest of Enfield barrels are re-



successfully, especially when an abrupt
is administered to the wrench handle.
barrel clamps, furnished in a number of
ll fit the barrel of the Springfield, Mau-
field, and other rifles securely in the
thout marring the blued finish. This is
tedly a special gunsmith's item, but it
ery good indeed.—A. H. B.

E BASE DRILL

e my latest bout with scope blocks, and
al amount of wasted time and effort
the proper drills, I stumbled upon a
ink" others might find helpful.
g several combination center drills and
, I took a J-2, ½-inch OD, and caught
½-inch lathe collet and simply ground
ends to proper size—one end (.147
r spotting and the opposite (.120 inch)

tap drill. The beauty of this is that
you only one drill to look after. Also,
an absolute minimum of bending with
t drill section and husky shank. While
the grinder hooked up I touched off
ance on the 60° reamer portion, which
any chance of mutilating the blocks.
drill cuts only on the point, there is
r of enlarging the screw holes in the
hen spotting.—REED THOMPSON, JR.,
wn, Pa.

(Continued on Page 50)

Says

LEW BULGRIN:

"I surprised two fellows on the same target by calling their shots before the target went down for marking. I was using an

ARGUS SPOTTING SCOPE"

This Argus is the Scope expert riflemen like best for practice and match shooting. Spotting your target through an Argus Scope, you get the full benefit of 20 power magnification. You get superb image brightness because of fluoride lens coating. Quick focusing saves you valuable time. Comfortable eyepiece arrangement allows you to use Scope while wearing glasses or goggles. And the Scope is light and easy to pack. The keener your interest is in rifles and rifle shooting, the more you need an Argus Spotting Scope!

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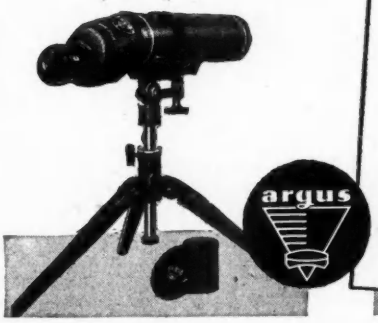

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- Kennedy Bros. Arms Company, St. Paul
- Marshall-Field, Chicago
- Newman-Stein & Company, Cleveland
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- Sloans Sporting Goods Co., New York
- Stoeger Arms Corporation, New York
- John Wanamaker, Philadelphia
- The Parker Whalen Co., Washington, D.C.
- Williams, Brown & Earl, Philadelphia
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CHAMBERED. 30-06, 4 lands, right twist, in white metal, no rejects, guaranteed absolutely new. **$10.85** each
Special to GUNSMITHS—6 for $55.00; 10 for $90.00; case 25, $220.00. F.O.B., M.O., Ck., C.O.D. NEW 30-06 Mauser or Krag, 23" length barrel, $14.95 ea.

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La Crosse Wisconsin
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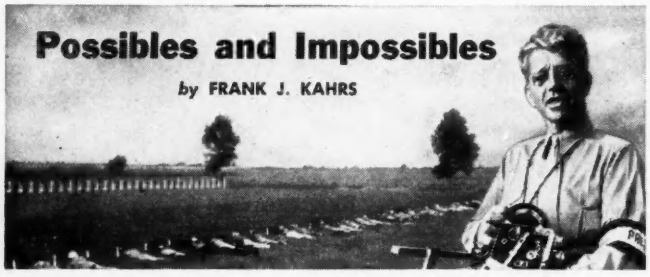
V951 MAY 47 XUM

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle

VOL. 10, NO. 5

BRIDG[E], 1947



Possibles and Impossibles

by FRANK J. KAHRS

Every now and then I hear from some friend of old shooting days when we were hitting the big bore at 1,000 yards and running skirmish in the National Team Matches; also "surprise" fire. Many of these old riflemen are still active, even though they have passed the allotted threescore and ten.

Only the other day a retired Army officer friend of mine, who is now enjoying the sunset of his life in San Antonio, wanted to have a favorite gun fixed up so he could have some good hunting in the field this year. This old friend is very, very close to 80 and I mention this to emphasize again what I have said many times that a man, who has been active most of his life in the shooting game or in the hunting field, never grows old. And like the old guard, "They die but never surrender."

* * *

I recently had the pleasure of reading over a report of the championship matches conducted by the New Zealand Miniature Rifle Association in 1946. There were no details furnished with this report to enable me to make an accurate analysis of the type of marksmanship displayed, but I take it for granted that the shooting was indoors at 50 feet because in the first match the winner was a young lady with a possible score of 100 plus 15 bulls. And the runner-up was the champion, himself, with a possible and 8 bulls.

Now in the Aggregate which determined the championship, the champ had a 200 plus 17 extra bulls, while the little lady who won the first match put up a game fight, but slipped out for a nine somewhere and finished with 199 and 15 bulls. I notice that they paid off in cash and the winner got 4 pounds 10. With the pound sterling selling around $3.25, I figure that the winner got about $13 and a trophy, while the runner-up got 4 pounds flat. That's not a bad idea this business of having the first and second cash prizes almost the same because it indicates that they might feel sorry for the runner-up. And as I have been the runner-up many times, I know how it feels, believe me!

But the interesting thing about all this New Zealand shooting is that they give cash prizes right down the line. In fact, right out to the end. There also appears to be a lot of shooting done by the female of the species. Incidentally, the champion used a Remington single-shot bolt action sporting rifle, which he purchased in 1938 and which is not a 37, by the way, and I have been trying to figure out what rifle he used. If I find out, I'll let you know.

* * *

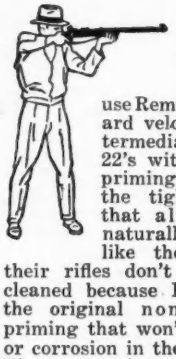
The other day one of my readers ventured a guess that I might be interested in hearing from a guy, as he expressed it, who had the night before made his first possible on the indoor range at 50 feet with a Remington 513T rifle and Kleanbore. Well, you might say, "What's so wonderful about that?" You and I may not think it is so wonderful, but to a guy who has never made a possible before because he's only been at the game a comparatively short time, it is important because he has achieved his first ambition—to make a possible!

I like to hear from such chaps because they always have something interesting to tell me and it gives me an insight into their way of thinking and doing things. It's been a long time since I have gotten such a kick out of a letter from one of my readers as this one because this chap was really earnest and sincere about it and he paid me a very high compliment by saying that he hoped we would keep on handing out the same straight dope we always have because he considers the column as gospel.

With encouragement like that, who can go wrong?

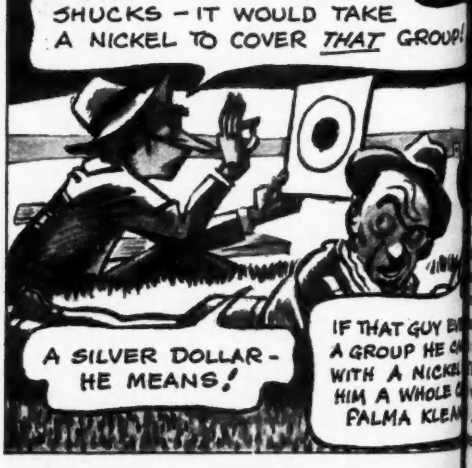
JUNIOR READ

NEWCOMERS CUT THEIR ON REMINGTON AMMUN . . . AND STICK TO I



Bridgeport, Conn., May, 1947. New shooters like to use Remington standard velocity and intermediate velocity 22's with Kleanbore priming. They like the tighter groups that almost come naturally . . . they like the fact that their rifles don't have to be cleaned because Kleanbore is the original non-corrosive priming that won't cause rust or corrosion in the gun barrel. They appreciate expert opinions that these c tops in quality a ance.

And when a y gains confide tighter groups— "graduation" to R bore and Pis master. All Rem ammunition is p painstaking car closest tolerances ity of product. carefully checked ton's ballistic co tories to assure customer satisf doesn't take a new to find out that ington—It's Rig


THERE'S ONE IN EVERY CLUB . . Group Ho
SHUCKS - IT WOULD TAKE A NICKEL TO COVER THAT GROUP!
A SILVER DOLLAR - HE MEANS!
IF THAT GUY E A GROUP HE C WITH A NICKE HIM A WHOLE PALMA KLEA

...e ...News

BRIDG...y, 1947

WEATHER:
FINE FOR CLEANING UP THE RANGE, GETTING FIRING POINTS COVERED.

First Class Reading Matter for Rifle Shooters

...LE SHOOTERS GET ...OR BIGGEST SEASON

...CREASED ACTIVITY OF JUNIOR GROUPS ...SPURS DEMAND FOR REMINGTON MODEL 513T

...COAST YOUNGSTERS ...SHOOT 'EM UP

...MINGTON, DEL. "Ac-...galore" was the order ...Boys' Club's last camp ...here. 201 boys took ...the shooting program ...boys completing quali-...targets. Certainly a ...rcentage! Their in-...deserve a lot of ...

...from 9 to 17 were in ...out two weeks. In that ...ir 14 rifles shot a total ...0 rounds of ammuni-...An even more active ... program is antici-...r 1947.

...PUBLICITY STIRS ...EST IN SHOOTING

...TLAND, ORE. They're ...ublicity-minded in this ...t city. And it pays ... with increased inter-...e *Portland Oregonian* ...a full column featuring ... matches and shooters. ...r local paper doesn't ...ews items about your ..., why not bring the ...up at your next meet-...here's no better way to ...world just what you're ... and how much fun ...doing it!

Thousands of junior shooters all over the country are preparing to enter competition this year

MODEL 513T . . . MODERATELY PRICED 22 TARGET RIFLE

Here's the moderately priced target rifle that meets every requirement for match shooting in all positions . . . the Remington Model 513T. Experts have long appreciated its accuracy and easy handling, and recommend it for Junior rifle clubs, summer camps, school teams, and other such groups.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., May, 1947. Interest is really hot! It looks like this will be the biggest and best season ever for junior shooters. The youngsters have started drilling targets at the ranges . . . turning in some targets that make old-timers look twice. And a great many of them are doing it with the Remington Matchmaster—Model 513T.

If your club wants Junior members but doesn't have them, start now to schedule matches for local schools, Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, Y.M.C.A. groups, and other boys' organizations. Hold classes in all phases of shooting. Give boys and girls the benefit of your experience in the safe and proper handling of firearms. Help them to select the right target rifles such as the Remington Model 513T. Helping the kids now will help the club —for years and years to come.

GET YOUR RIFLE FASTER

Perhaps you've wanted to buy a new Remington Model 513T but thought it would take too long to get it. Well all that's changed! Remington has a new plan to help you. If your dealer has no 513T in stock, ask him to order it for you through regular channels, marking the order with your name. This "earmarks" the order, and when it comes to Remington, we'll do our best to get that 513T into your hands without delay.

Palma, Kleanbore, Targetmaster and Matchmaster are Reg. U. S. Pat. Off. by Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.

V 95 5 MAY 47 XUM

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K2.5	52.50	Texon	58.75
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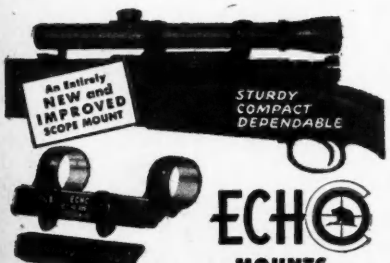

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- Low Scope Position ... in exact center for normal sighting
- True Dovetail side-anchor, incorporating powerful recoil-absorbing, double-locking lugs
- Scope slipped in place in a few seconds, without tools ... "zeroed in" in absolute alignment
- Quickly detachable to permit use of metallic sights and safety in storage and transportation
- No loose parts to lose ... base mounted to the rifle, bracket attached to scope
- Machined from solid one-piece Aircraft-Quality Heat-Treated Aluminum Forgings ... beautiful gunmetal finish
- Base, Clamp Legs, and Screws of finest steel

Ask your dealer, or write . . .

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Winchester Nos. 120, 115, 116, 111 and 108. Remington Nos. 9½, 6½, 2½ and 1½. The No. 8½ Remington has been discontinued. Western Nos. 8½, 7, 6½ and 1½. $6.00 per 1,000 F.O.B. here. Smaller lots are 60¢ per 100, plus a packing charge of 25¢ per shipment when order is for less than a total of 1,000 primers. Primers cannot be mailed; must be shipped by express.

SPEER .25 caliber 60 grain pointed soft point bullets, $3.55 per 100 postpaid. 120 grain Spitzer S.P. .257", $3.75 per 100 postpaid.

CASES—For the 8 mm. rimless Mauser, commonly known as 7.92 x 57 mm. Empty, unprimed. Made from once-fired 30-06 cases. 6¢ each F.O.B. here. Include money for postage or can ship express transportation charges collect.

Write for list of items we can supply for immediate delivery, which includes Du Pont & Hercules powders, Speer and Sisk bullets, empty primed cases, loading tools, scales, powder measures, scopes, mounts, ammunition, etc. Stamp appreciated.

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Any book that is advertised or reviewed in THE AMERICAN RIFLEMAN—also many hard-to-find titles. No advance in price.

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(Continued from Page 47)

STOCK REFINISHING

I am a shotgun man and as such am often called upon to produce the "chenuine London Oil Finish" overnight. Now all of us know that it is impossible to produce this finish in this allotted time. Yet customers want to shoot their guns on the week end and will not brook any delay. So what? In desperation, I have hit upon the following finish that meets the requirements of the average shooter and also provides a finish that protects the wood but does not hide the grain.

This is not for the elite who can call upon all of the "hard-to-get" items that make a stock-finishing job a pleasure, but is intended for those of us who have to rely upon anything that comes to hand.

First, mix a small portion of linseed oil substitute (I believe they call it "Linoil"), with an equal amount of turpentine. (Don't wait if hurried. Put it on hot or cold, the shellac will give it body.) Allow it to evaporate until it is the consistency of heavy syrup. Now you are ready to commence that stock finish.

Sand the stock until the "whiskers" are no longer in evidence and then swab on a coat of the thick oil. It does not need to be hot. Let it sink into the wood and then wipe off the surplus. Follow with a coat of white shellac. Stop right here, keep the same place on the oily rag. Put some real muscle into the job and rub until the stock is hot. The first indication of a finish is the appearance of a shiny surface. Do not stop, but continue until the stock is dry. Caution: Use only the same portion of the rag that was used to rub on the oil. It will get tacky.

You will find there are still a lot of pores that are not filled, so sand the stock again and level until the bare wood is reached. Again swab with the thick oil and follow with the shellac, using the same portion of the rag. You will now find that the pores are not so deep. Keep up the alternate rubbing with the thick oil and shellac until the surface is flush. (This will take a little time. I produced a fine finish on a forearm in one hour just previous to this writing.) If you have the time, allow the last coat to remain over night without rubbing and in the morning rub the entire stock with rubbing compound (the kind that automobile painters use to rub body finishes). Follow this with several coats of wax. If you listen to the "Fibber McGee and Mollie" program, so much the better, but any good wax will do. Let the wax set as long as possible, at least thirty minutes, and polish. You will find that you have produced a finish that rivals the finest and does not have to be absorbed by the cheek every time that it is a little over 60 degrees in the shade.

It took me more time to write this than it took to produce a fine finish on a shotgun blank. Don't be afraid of the substitute oil. It contains a more-rapid drying ingredient and will not take as long as the real stuff. I have used this method on domestic and imported walnut and find that it is far superior to the recommended methods. Try it for a real oil finish that does not take a year to produce.—ALFRED H. GIERTZ, Lake Charles, La.

CHECKING HEADSPACE

I would like to pass on an idea which may be of help to those who would like to find exactly how much headspace they have

their bolt actions. If they will cut their shims from a feeler gauge costing 25¢ in Woolworth's or Kresge's, and cut them about ¼-inch diameter or less, they will find they can be stuck on the end of the bolt if they are first laid across the poles of a magnet. Using empty cases, it is no trick at all to run to earth the approximate headspace and then turn off as many cases as necessary to get an average. If a shim should fall off, it can easily be recovered from the mechanism with the use of the magnet.—LAMBERT MURPHY, Longmeadow, Mass.

CLEANING AFTER CHLORATE PRIMERS

The following may be of interest to some of your readers who find cleaning a bothersome chore. I have found this method to be quick, easy, and convenient for centerfire bolt-action rifles and doubtless it could be adapted to cleaning of lever and other actions also.

Take an empty cartridge case for the gun to be cleaned, drill a ¼-inch hole in the head, solder the end of a ¼-inch copper tube about 10 inches long into this hole so that the tube extends straight back from the case. At a point about nine inches from the head of the case, bend the tubing to a 55- or 60-degree angle, and solder a small (3-inch) metal funnel to the end of the tube.

To use, remove the bolt from rifle and insert the case down through the receiver and into the chamber. Pour about a quart or half gallon of very hot water, to which baking soda may be added for more effectiveness, into the funnel with the gun muzzle down, holding rifle by the stock. In a minute or so the bore will be dry from its own heat. Run through the bore a patch saturated with Rig and the job is done.

This method is particularly effective after the use of Government ammunition having a chlorate primer, the residue from which only water will remove. It keeps the action perfectly dry and thoroughly covers every bore surface.

The bend in the tube is not essential, but it is only to get the funnel out and away from the stock and receiver in case of accidental overflow. About ¼ inch of the cartridge case neck should be trimmed off so that it will not cover the entire chamber throat where fouling is most severe. A good polishing of the case with crocus cloth is helpful in making for easy insertion and eliminates possibility of chamber damage.—JOHN A. McGIRR, Cumberland, Maryland.

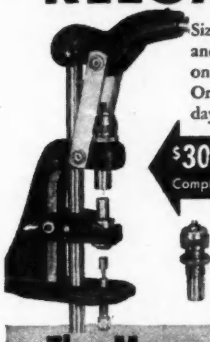
EXPLOSIVES LICENSE NO LONGER REQUIRED

I wish to resume my old prewar hobby of handloading for both revolver and varmint rifle, but I understand that a federal license is required before I can purchase primers and powder. Will you please tell me where I must secure the permit and how much it will cost?—H. HARRIS, Wichita, Kansas.

Answer: On October 5, 1945, a federal regulation was issued through the Bureau of Mines which granted General License No. 8 to manufacture, sell, store, purchase, and use explosives. This blanket license makes it unnecessary for handloaders to secure any federal permit before purchasing handloading components.—S. R.

NOW! Two Finer Tools Give Handloaders the PERFECT "BULLET!"

MEEPOS RELOADER



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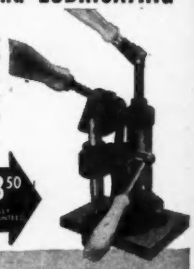
Accurate · Clean · Speedy

BULLET SIZING and LUBRICATING

Just put bullets in top, pull lever, they drop out at the bottom. With your order include bullet make and number, or sample bullet if possible.



Die set included $18.50
Extra dies $3.50
Bullet Punch .75

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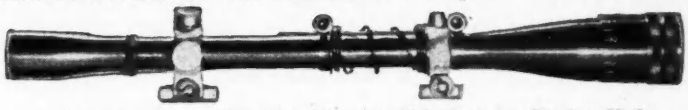

Just the Scope for That New Varmint Rifle You Are Having Made

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ENFIELD, REMINGTON M 30 INTERCHANGEABILITY?

I would like to change my Model 1917 Enfield rifle so that it will cock on the opening rather than the closing motion of the bolt.

I understand that the Remington Model 30 is almost a direct copy of the Enfield except that it cocks on the opening motion of the bolt. Are the involved parts interchangeable and are they available through the Remington factory or can the alteration of my rifle be made there? —J. A. Cool, Columbus, Ohio.

Answer: Soon after the close of World War I, the Remington people fitted the Model 1917 Enfield rifle with a sporter stock and sold it commercially as the Model 30. The sights and small receiver alterations were the only other changes made at this time.

Only a few of these early sporters were sold before the arm was redesigned to cock when the bolt handle was lifted from the closed position. Its name was then changed to the Remington Model 30 Express Rifle.

In addition to changing the operation of the bolt, several other parts were modified to make them lighter. The cocking piece and sear were altered to shorten the lock time or firing pin travel. As a result, practically none of the parts would be interchangeable with your DCM Enfield. Several additional operations were performed on the receiver. An important one was the machine cut to assist in the feeding of hunting cartridges which are loaded with the 220 grain bullet. Several methods of correcting this feeding problem in the Enfield have been described in the "Dope Bag."

Remington discontinued the manufacture of the Model 30 rifle several years ago and at the present time they are not set up to convert an Enfield bolt so that it can be cocked on the upward movement. Until this conversion has been clearly described in a pamphlet or article we will continue to recommend that it be done only by qualified gunsmiths.—J. S. R.

REPORT ON DEER KILLED

A survey sheet inside the cover of the April American Rifleman requested valuable information on deer killed during the last hunting season. Hundreds of prompt replies, which should throw considerable light on the argument regarding the killing power possessed by various cartridges, have already been received. We would like to have as many returns as possible, so if any readers have overlooked the report please fill it in and send it to the NRA today.

The result of the survey will be used as the basis for an informative Rifleman article which should be of interest to all hunters. Additional survey sheets for nonmembers will be sent on request.

RADOM PISTOL

Can you help me in identifying the following described automatic pistol:

This gun is of foreign manufacture and has evidently been copied from the Government Colt .45. Along the barrel on the left side is a lever which, when the name F. B. Radom Vis Mod. 35 Pat. No. 15567 followed by what looks like a small eagle with wings spread standing on a globe. Thomas Corwin, Fairmont, West Virginia.

You have the Polish Radom pistol, ...es called the P-35. This is a self-load-...tol made at the Polish arms factory at ..., where the design was worked out with ...istance of engineers from the Fabrique ...ale of Liege, Belgium, who own the ...ing Patents in Europe.

...s gun greatly resembles our Colt .45 ..., but is made for the 9 mm. Luger ...llum) cartridge. The gun is strong and ...de and will handle the American-made ...ition satisfactorily.

...h resembling Colt .45 thumb safety ... early model Polish Radom pistol ...s slide in position for dismounting

...r model Radom is without latch

...s in top of hammer of later Radom ... replaces latch and, when slide ...k and hammer-dropping lever de-...ed, holds slide in dismounting position

...dition to the markings you mentioned, ...enir guns brought back to this country ...ear the small inspection stamps of the ... Waffen Ampt (Ordnance Depart-...that is, the letters "WaA" in combina-... an inspector's number.

...is a lever on the rear of the slide near ... which, when pressed, will drop the ... without firing the gun. This gun ...thumb safety, but the earlier models ...mething that looks like the thumb

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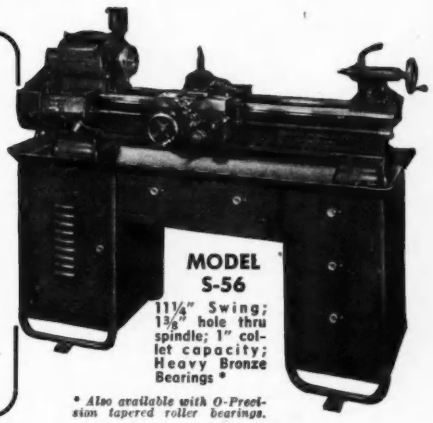

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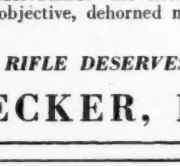

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safety on our Colt. This is a latch to h slide in position for dismounting. Th guns do not have this lever, but have a in the top of the hammer so arrange when the slide is held all the way back a hammer-dropping lever is depressed i catch in the top of the hammer and h slide in dismounting position.—J. S. H.

ALTERING THE M1 BULLET

I have read many comments on a service bullets so they will be safe for h purposes. My method for the M1 bull drill the point to a depth of 3/16 inch, 1/16 inch drill. For base protection a h inch in diameter is drilled in the base bullet and then an auto brake band i pressed in, thus insuring an adequate tected base.—Geo. W. Lawrence, Ft. Indiana.

Answer: Actually you would not need that additional safety feature at the base M1 boattail bullet, as it is very well pr in the first place. The idea sounds very tical, though, and it possibly may be to the exposed base of the 150 grain M2 by using a rivet with a larger head.—A.

ALTERING THE M2 BULLET

I have read many articles in The Rif both pro and con, about the safety of M2 .30-'06 bullet points. I have never any suggestions to counteract the dan volved. I have what I believe to be an idea that seems to accomplish the purp has worked 100 percent to date, and e fears to a great extent.

After making a jig for the operati using a No. 46 drill, I make a hole co through the diameter of the bullet, ahead of the end of the cartridge case. drive a pin of 12 gauge copper wire i No. 46 hole. A light tap on each end pin swells it and insures a tight fit. I file the pin ends to bullet contour and with altering the point by drilling 1/16 x 3/16 inch deep.—Edw. L. Pavuk, Wyoming.

REPLACING LOST BOLTS

I note that some of your advertise spare bolts for such guns as the L Russian rifle.

During the past year you have fea cellent articles on foreign weapons, have repeatedly warned your readers outstanding dangers inherent in such g they are improperly assembled from tinued production lines or from parts at random. One of the dangers li proper headspace.

Certainly the border line between advertisements and nonacceptable ments is vague and ill-defined, but like giving a lecture on the dangers fires and then tossing away a burning C. L. Tooker, Clayton, Missouri.

Answer: It seems to us that there when it may be very useful to be ab place a lost or damaged bolt, and we the information that we publish from time will insure that due precaution taken.

It is quite safe to replace a bolt if it erly fitted and the headspace is che found correct; or if the gun is to be

...case the chamber will be reamed to ...rect headspace. Moreover, the owner ...reign rifle with parts missing may want ...plete it for use only as a souvenir to ...the wall.

...feel that our readers are pretty intelli... ...ople and that we would be a little pre... ...ers if we refused to let them know ...ware parts can be obtained.—J. S. H.

...Y CARTRIDGES

...mber writes: Is the Cartridge, Dummy, ...r 30 M-2, T I V D X @ $48.05 per ...d rounds, in the DCM price list good ...ition? Can you give me the powder ...d weight of the lead of the above ...e?

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...e a small problem in handloading for ...I would like an authoritative solution. ...e 30-'06 case be *safely* resized to .257 ...with the *live* arsenal primer in place ...ing cut to the proper length for the ...The 30-'06 cases on hand are wartime ...s Arsenal and Twin Cities. I know ...e fired '06 cases are often resized to ...g the Pacific tool. Being cautious by ...I thought it best to ask someone with ...perience about this matter, as I well ...e power of even those little primers.— ...cDOWELL, Birmingham, Alabama.

...r: It would be reasonably safe under ...conditions to reform or resize the ...down to .257 caliber with the primer in ... I have actually demonstrated many ...e procedure of crushing a primer com... ...at, or as flat as I can get it, under a ...ss without the primer going off. That ...at usually a gentle, easy pressure will ...f the primer.—A. H. B.

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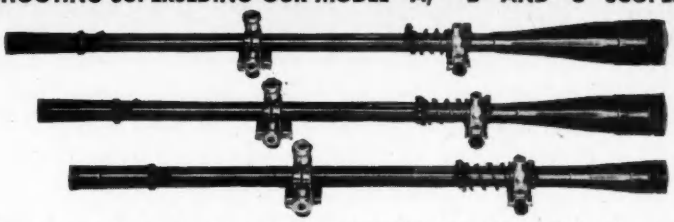

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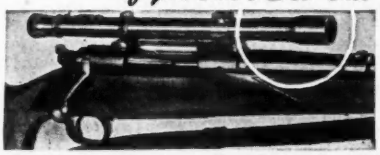

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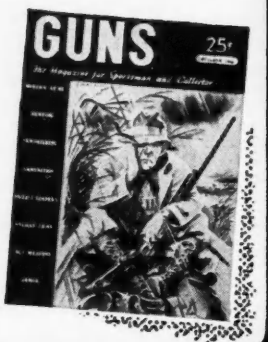

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MAGAZINE TUBES, Mod. 97 and Mod. 12, each .. 3.00

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Lyman Alaskan, All Weather, choice of 7 reticules. $60.00
Weaver K2.5, Post or Crosshair 45.00
Weaver K4, Post or Crosshair 52.50
Argus Spotting Scopes, Super Grade, 20X, 55mm ... 74.50
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All above scopes latest type with coated lenses

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Redfield Jr., for most rifles $10.75, $12.75, $14.75
Stith Install-it-Yourself, for Win. 70 & Savage 99 using Alaskan, Weaver K2.5, K4, standard .. 15.00
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Redfield 70-H Receiver Sights to fit most rifles ... 8.50
Redfield 102 Receiver Sights to fit most rifles 5.75
Redfield Ramp Front Sights, with hood, 26" Enf ... 8.50
Lyman 48 Sights, to fit most rifles 12.50
Lyman 77 and 77H, with base and inserts 5.00
Redfield Safeties, Mauser Only 5.00
Harrington & Richardson D.A. Sportsman Revolvers (send permit if required) 47.95

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Johnson Automatics Mfg. Co., Provi R. I., plans on making available through Custom Gun Department, heavy rifled in .22, .25, .270, and .30 caliber for gun or individuals. These are to finish up inches long, 1¼ inches diameter at the tapered to 1⅛ inches at the muzzle. Any tional tapering can be done by the gun who does the chambering and barrel The .22 caliber Johnson barrel we are is beautifully finished on the inside, can fouling and gives very good accuracy .22-30 caliber.—A. H. B.

EADS BOLT ACTION SAFETIES

The Eads Mfg. Co., 4122 Decatur St., ver, Colorado, makes neat bolt-action for low-mounted scopes. These safeties the bolt when it is in firing position striker is also cammed away from the sear. An expanding-type bushing or ring keeps the Eads' safety in place in the sleeve.

This company also makes special trigger the rifles mentioned above, but we have had an opportunity to try them yet. The is $15.00.—A. H. B.

REMOVING STUCK PATCHES

If at sometime or other one should cleaning patch caught in a rifle bore, one best ways to get it out is to heat the end steel cleaning rod red hot and burn it WAYNE R. GRABILL, Exira, Iowa.

.22 DONALDSON WASP

I read with more than the usual interest article in the February RIFLEMAN on the Donaldson Wasp. The data are certainly couraging. Accordingly, would you please ward the address of the two gunsmiths gan & Cail.—J. R. TAYLOR, Berea, Ohio.

Answer: The .219 Donaldson Wasp is new cartridge. It was reviewed in that merely to show what can be done with accurate rifle, an accurate cartridge, equally accurate holder. Do not get this is the only accurate varmint in existence. For any additional data might possibly be available, you could Dick Morgan of Morgan & Cail, 123 Terrace, New Haven, Connecticut. however, that he can add a great deal to appeared in the article.

The Donaldson Wasp is merely an and shortened .219 Zipper case. It is from 1.91 inches to approximately 1¾ and the case blown out with a more shoulder angle.—A. H. B.

WHO'S KIDDING WHO?

Having read a lot about people who up .30-'06 Springfields, Enfields, Winch and other guns by using German cartri them, I decided to try it myself. Hav ceived an Enfield from the DCM tried to put an American-made Peters cartridge in the chamber.

IT WOULD NOT GO IN EVEN TH I TRIED TO FORCE IT BY HITTIN BOLT HANDLE WITH MY FIST.

Measurements showed the case head several thousandths of an inch larger th .30-'06.

kidding who, or what's going on?—
A. BUCKALTER, New York City.

The 7.9 German cartridge has about
diameter as our .30-'06 at the rear
the case is shorter. The 7.9 bullet
diameter of .323 inch as against about
inch for our bullet. In a .30-'06 rifle,
has not been fired much, and which is
throated and chambered, it is very diffi-
close the bolt on one of these German
ers. Considerable force is required and
tridge is usually crimped down some-
at the neck. However, if the gun is
chambered or has been fired a consid-
amount so that the bullet seat is worn,
mm. German cartridge or its American
part, the 8 mm. Mauser, will go in
sily.

st ran into this at Springfield Armory
er World War I when a blown-up 1903
me in. The damage had been done by
n 8 mm. cartridge in it. A number of
nts were made firing these cartridges
06 rifles and it was found that when
artridge is fired in a gun chambered for
-06, a pressure of around 100,000
to the square inch results which fre-
will wreck the rifle. Bear in mind that
is a considerable variation in guns and
es. A test involving only one gun and
e cartridge doesn't tell the whole story.
H.

LD RIFLE SCOPE

new 2½X hunting scope, having both
elevation and windage, is unquestion-
e most streamlined of all the hunting-
pes. The outside diameter of the neat
adjusting rings is only 3/32-inch
than the 7/8-inch tube diameter. The
is 10¼ inches long and weighs 7½
The clear objective diameter of the
lens is about 13 mm. and the enlarged
is 21 mm. The ocular is adjust-
r individual eyes and the objective is
ble for parallax.

scope has a sandblased dull black finish
does not seem to be too durable. The
view is 35 feet at 100 yards and the
mate 3½-inch eye relief does not seem
ritical.

adjustment rings, instead of the con-
al knobs, make for a very attractive
ure. They are adjustable by clicks.
re 40 graduations, or 80 half-minute
r windage and the same number for
. That means that from absolute zero
e cross hairs in the center of the scope
e 20 minutes or 40 clicks, up or down,
left.

we zeroed one of these scopes at 100
d then added 10 clicks the change was
ches. After adding the same number
nge, the change was 5.40 inches. Twice
mber left changed the impact 10.60
Then going back 10 more gave 5.85
change. Then going back to the origi-
ing the group was 1-inch lower and 1-
of the original zero. This would indi-
backlash, as each check moved the zero
on of an inch more than the previous
We fired 50 shots for this test.

adjustment rings do interfere with the
possible mounting in Tilden mounts.
gs actually touched the base of the
and a groove would have to be cut in
e, or the base itself on the back side
wer. The same thing might happen

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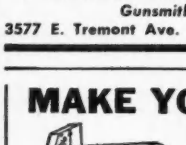

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with the Redfield Senior and Junior when the scope is in its most forward —A. H. B.

LOADS AND HEADSPACE

I would like to know the headspace sizes on .250-3000 Savage, such as GO, and Field. The '06 of like sizes are 1.94 and 1.950 inches, respectively.

I would also like some good loads .300 Improved Magnum with 28 shoulder using 150-grain and 180-grain jacketed bullets.—RAY W. MORLAN, R land, Illinois.

Answer: The standard headspace m ment for the .250 Savage cartridge is Therefore, the minimum would be 1.5 the maximum would be 1.581 and the maximum 1.584.

Recommending loads for wildcat ca is a problem. There are many differen even for a given caliber such as the .30 num. Some cases are blown out straig will hold much more powder than othe ing more body taper, which of course, the case capacity. Not knowing wh case is like, all I can say is that our ma load in the very big .300 CCC is 78 grains of No. 4350 with 172-grain bullet the Weatherby-Magnum, Weatherby maximum 82 grains of No. 4350 with t grain bullet and 85 grains with the 15 He warns that these are quite high A. H. B.

7.7 JAP CONVERTED TO .300 SA

For sometime we have been recei quires on rechambering the 7.7 Japan to handle the .300 Savage cartridge. to the gunsmiths who advertise this s THE RIFLEMAN brings the following which we consider a safe method of d job.—A. H. B.

Answer: We set the Jap barrels back chamber them. Although the Jap bar oversize, of course, and pressures are v they give surprisingly good accuracy.

Most shops think they are above on these guns, but I believe we are gi average hunter of limited means a re They make an accurate, dependable, priced hunting rifle.—ORAHOOD GU Ordway, Colorado.

WATCH THOSE 8 MM. RELOA

When I looked at reloads for my Mauser Sporter, the thing that caught was that they were all made from brass. I sold my .30-'06 rifle the next

Men all over the country are m good hunting loads for the 8 mm. w .30-'06 markings on the head. The man, myself included, cannot, at a tell the difference between the two.

It is a well-known fact that the will not fit the Mauser but about of ten 8 mm.'s will chamber in a .30-

In spite of all the warnings that wi out some people will get themselves have their guns damaged by putting cartridge in the wrong hole.

Why can't we, through the RIFLEM a campaign to have every reloader kind of a warning sign on his 8 loads?—F. N. PETRIK, Topeka, Kan

...ING ALUMINUM

...December Dope Bag, Oran Zimmer-...Los Angeles, inquires for a method of ...shing aluminum. During the war we ...g selenic acid dissolved in hot water. ...mmended strength is 10 percent, but ...d it needed to be stronger than this; ...0 percent. Put the parts in the solu-...d heat and watch until they are the ...r. The acid is in the form of a grey ...e substance and is very heavy, and I ...d to obtain. It is safe to use and ...ry good finish and is quite perma-...—Eschwege, Ledsham, Wirral (Eng-

...ER BLACK FINISH FOR ALUMI-

...g the war we cleaned aluminum, and it ...e clean. This was done by immersing ...t "Oakite" solution, which promptly ...s a very nice dull black that in turn ...e removed by dilute nitric acid. You ...ase Oakite at any hardware store and ...t water solution (near boiling) and ...e aluminum part in it. Don't leave it ...g as it will eat the metal. Then ...—Dr. F. Dean Miller, Jr., Corry, ...nia.

TRADE DOPE

...Anderson, 1203 Broadway, Yakima, ...who has been making satisfactory side ...for some makes of bolt-action rifles, ...worked one out for the Model 70 ...er. These shotgun-type thumb safe-...the bolt and sear on all models. ...tions on which the safety can be in-...re the M-54 Winchester, the Mauser, ...Krag.

...fety parts are sold only to gunsmiths ...t have a sample installed by Mr. ...

☆ ☆ ☆

...O. Sisson, Great Bend, N. Y., states ...can do a limited amount of stock ...ch as restocking, altering, and repair-...by the best grade of work is accepted ...Sisson suggests that the customer ...ore shipping.

☆ ☆ ☆

...Neubrand, gunsmith, Cleveland, Ohio, ...been adapting Mauser rifles to Ameri-...ridges for several years, shipped us a ...olt he had engine-turned and on which ...ent the bolt handle down. It is a fine ...eubrand does stock work as well as ...work.

☆ ☆ ☆

...ey's, Orrville, Ohio, has forwarded us ...their February gun lists including shot-...s, pistols, and scopes now in stock.

☆ ☆ ☆

...F. Pride, custom gunsmith of Port-...gon, writes that he is now in a posi-...ccept orders for custom "riflesmithing" ...His letter indicates that he prefers ...gh-quality work and that he has set ...s accordingly. He will build a com-...e around a customer's action but will ...k rifles which have been fitted with ...sewhere. He states that his work ...eed on a refund or replacement basis. ...xcellent references.

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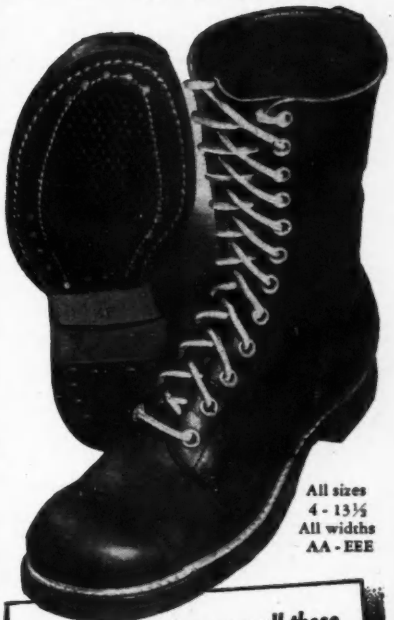

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Catalog & viewbook on request.

COMMANDANT, 40 Stonewall Jackson Drive, Terrell, Texas

Wood-Line Products Company, Barberton, Ohio, is marketing a very complete line of "Sports-Den" gun cabinets and racks. The cabinets come in walnut or mahogany finish and in two grades, Standard and Deluxe. There is also a choice of sizes for 5, 8, or 13 guns. The wall racks come in two sizes, for 5 and 3 guns. Some of these racks were seen on display at the Grand American Handicap. There is no question but that they would make a handsome addition to a den.

☆ ☆ ☆

Ray Tiffany, 5723 Alameda Blvd., El Paso, Texas, is selling brass muzzle crowning balls. They are furnished in five sizes, 5/16 inch through 5/8 inch. These sizes should be adequate for refinishing the muzzle of any rifle or pistol at least up to .45 caliber.

☆ ☆ ☆

G. T. Smiley Company, Box 54, Clippergap, Calif., has a number of serviceable tools for the handloader. Quite a few changes and improvements have made these case-trimming and case-shortening tools quite popular.

A new tool is the combination affair consisting of a case neck trimmer, cutoff tool, crimp remover, and primer pocket reamer.

☆ ☆ ☆

Leslie Lindahl, the Central City, Nebraska, gunsmith has an assortment of very useful rotary files. Some of the flat-end and pear-shaped files are very useful for refinishing the cutoff muzzle end of rifle barrels. The refinishing can be done with a hand drill. These files are also very useful when used in a lathe or drill press, either for metal or wood working. The assortment of 25 different shapes has been very useful indeed.

☆ ☆ ☆

Huck Gamble of The Gun Rack, 441 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, Calif., has expanded his sporting goods store and gun shop, and he is proud of his list of satisfied customers.

He has recently taken on an experienced gunsmith who has had fifteen years in the business. The gunsmith's name is Glenn Hopper, and for about eight years was with the well-known Far West Hobby Shop.

☆ ☆ ☆

Forest Specialty Company, Park Ridge, Illinois, is producing a chromium-plated, 10-round, .22 rimfire cartridge block which can be attached to the right-hand side of the receiver of a rifle. It is attached by two screws, the heads of which are countersunk into the block. The finish and workmanship make it appropriate for mounting on the best target rifles.

☆ ☆ ☆

The Driver Equipment Co., 1152 Valencia St., San Francisco 10, Calif., has a number of good tools for the gunsmith. Their handmade Franz checkering tools are very satisfactory. Other useful gadgets are the Hjorth spring winder and special durable gun taps.

☆ ☆ ☆

J. Bushnell Smith (Smith's Custom Loads), Middlebury, Vermont, has resumed operation again after Mr. Smith's release from the U. S. Navy.

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Rate: 20 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. All advertisements must be accompanied by remittance, made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C.

2. Closing Date: All advertisements must be received by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: the 1st of May for the June issue. Ads *received* after the 1st of May *and not later than the 1st of June* will be inserted in the July issue.)

3. Who May Advertise: Any individual or firm whose advertisements and methods of doing business meet our requirements may advertise their goods or services in the ARMS CHEST.

4. All Orders Subject to These Conditions: WE reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

5. Transactions Based on Good Faith: ARMS CHEST transactions are based on good faith and mutual satisfaction. Deliberate misrepresentation, disregard of usual business ethics or the attempt to circumvent these general requirements, when brought to our attention, will result in refusal of further advertising and might result in disbarment from the NRA in the case of members.

6. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Box number or blind ads will not be accepted. Give your COMPLETE name and address, to insure prompt delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

7. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters likewise are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith; H. B., meaning heavy barrel; HP., meaning high-power). Hyphenated words are counted as two words (examples: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

8. Responsibility for Illegible Copy: Type or print advertisements plainly, as we can not be responsible for errors due to illegible writing.

9. Firearms for Sale or Trade Must Be Properly Described: The *condition* of every gun (including essential parts) advertised for sale or trade, *must* be specified according to *NRA standards*, as follows: PERFECT—meaning factory condition; EXCELLENT—meaning new condition, implying negligible amount of use; VERY GOOD—meaning practically new condition; implying little use, with no appreciable bore wear and only minor surface scratches or wear; GOOD—meaning moderate use with some finish worn off, only moderate bore wear, with no pits and nothing worse than a little roughness in the bore; FAIR—meaning no parts missing necessary to use of gun, reasonable wear inside and out, nothing worse than minor pits in steel or stock, gun sufficiently accurate for hunting. POOR—meaning marred appearance and pitted or badly worn bore.

10. Definite Prices Must Be Stated: A specific price must be stated on all items offered in FOR SALE and SELL or TRADE ads—except that the phrase "write for catalog" or "write for price list" may be used when listing merchandise in quantities.

11. Non-Specific Phrases Barred: Phrases such as "highest" or "top prices paid," as well as any other so-called "auction-type" phrases are not acceptable. The terms "fair price paid" or "state price wanted" may be used.

12. Requesting Privilege of Examination: We *insist* that purchasers desirous of examining merchandise before acceptance request shipment by express C. O. D. with examination privilege. This procedure permits the purchaser to inspect the merchandise *in local express office* and authorizes the express company to return unsatisfactory merchandise at shipper's expense.

13. "Outlawed" Firearms Cannot Be Sold: Federal statutes forbid the sale or trade of all machine or submachine guns; sawed-off rifles and shotguns with barrels of less than 18" and Mauser and Luger auto pistols *with holster stocks*—except by a Federally licensed dealer who has paid the special tax required by Section 3260, Internal Revenue Code.

FOR SALE

LARGE COLLECTION OF AMERICAN AND European antique arms. Send 25 cents in coin for our 14th edition catalog featuring the Brown collection of Kentucky rifles. We buy whole collections or single pieces. Fair prices paid. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf

AMMUNITION—NEW AND USED SHOTGUNS, rifles, revolvers, pistols, fishing tackle, list 10¢. Dept. N. R. Rudolphs, Atchison, Kansas. 12-47

CATALOG OF ANTIQUE PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, guns, rifles, edged weapons, armor, accessories, books and antiques, listing over 1200 items with 60 photo plates, illustrating over 850 items for sale in the catalog, price $1.00. H. A. Brand, 704-G, Ingalls Bldg., Cincinnati 2, Ohio. 8-47

U. S. MILITARY FIREARMS, 1776-1946. BASIC book for collectors, illustrated by 88 full page plates, price $6.00. James Hicks, 428 Rich, Mount Vernon, N. Y. 12-47

USE THE NEW GAS PROOF GUN WAD FOR mild recoil close even pattern unusually long range $4.00 per M. Packed in 1000 lots 500-⅜", 250-⅛C, 250 thin C, send remittance. E. G. Snyder, Rt. #2, Reading, Penna. tf

ILLUSTRATED 174 PAGE CATALOG OF ANtique firearms and edged weapons 50¢. Robert Abels, R-860 Lexington Ave., New York 21. 1-48

MUZZLE GUN SUPPLIES: NIPPLES FOR rifles, shotguns, pistols and muskets 25¢ each, 5 for $1.00. Stainless steel nipples ¼-28, small opening at top, 3 for $1.00. Send old nipple that is to be duplicated. Flints for pistols and rifles $1.00 per dozen. Percussion caps 1000 for $3.40 FOB. Black powder 6¼ lb. can $4.00. 25# can $12.50 FOB, freight only. Several fine match rifles, $60.00 to $175.00. Flintlock rifles $75.00 to $100.00. Squirrel rifles in .32 to .38 caliber $35.00 to $75.00. Hickory ramrods .38, .40, .42, $1.00. .48 caliber $1.25. Plastic adjustable black powder measure, funnel, $3.25; every shooter of frontier guns needs one of these. Nipple wrenches for rifle, pistol or musket, 75¢. Round ball moulds, wood handles, spure cutters at $5.50 up to .50 caliber; $6.00 for larger sizes, main spring vise 75¢. New .375 caliber slow pitch barrels, with drum and nipple $17.00. Drum, nipple and clean-out screw combination 75¢. Send old outfit to be duplicated. 17A sights, $3.00; 57E for M75 Winchester $6.00; Redfield 70M for Mausers $8.50; Redfield 65 front $3.50. Unused percussion lock hammers, 1⅝" reach $2.00; 2⅛" $1.75. Will furnish target and loading data with match rifles. Farris & Son, Portsmouth, Ohio. tf

RELOADING LUBRICANTS: IPCO COLLOIDAL graphite ribbon wads $1.00 box; IPCO bullet lubricant $1.00 box. Special discount to dealers. Industrial Products Co., W. W. Perkins, Prop., Box 14, Wakefield, Mass. tf

WE BUY, SELL, TRADE SHOTGUNS, RIFLES, revolvers, ammunition, outboard motors. Scaramuzzo, 601 South Halsted, Chicago 7. tf

RIFLE SLINGS LEATHER. U. S. ARMY 1¼", used, good condition, $1.00 each. Grimes rifle or shotgun slings, top grain, russet cowhide, adjustable to any shotgun or rifle, furnished in ⅞"-1¼" widths $1.50 each, brand new. Rifle sling swivels, quick detachable, 1½" only, $1.25 per pair. Used .45 Colt automatic pistol magazines, $1.75 each, good condition. Taylor precision fishermans barometer, pocket size, $7.50 each. Rifle and shotgun section metal cleaning rods precision quality, all calibers and gauges, $1.50 each, brushes 25¢ extra. Hoppes gun cleaning pack, consists of oil, nitro-solvent, gun grease and cleaning patches, $1.25. Recoil boot, prewar rubber, U. S. Army slip-on style, for shotgun or rifle $1.00 each. Duck and crow calls $1.50 each. Hawk calls $2.00 each, all treated against tone change. Gent's one inch hand carved all leather western belt, tan, all sizes $1.50 each. Genuine G.I. heavy canvas leggings with brass eyelets, large, medium and small sizes, $1.50 per pair. Holster for Luger automatic pistol with 8" barrel, saddle leather, brand new, $5.00 each. Tan leather belt holsters for revolver or automatic pistol, any size, with flap $3.00, without flap $2.50. Shoulder holsters, all leather, $4.95 each. Give barrel length and name of gun for all holsters. All items are postpaid. Sportsmen's Supplies, 250 West Bayberry Lane, Upper Darby, Penna.

DEALER & COLLECTOR: ILLUSTRATED monthly devoted to weapons of the world, $3.00 yearly. Dealer & Collector, 71RH, Flushing, New York. tf

RAISE TURKEYS THE NEW WAY. WRITE FOR free information explaining how to make up to $3,000.00 in your own backyard. Address: National Turkey Institute, Dept. 251, Columbus, Kansas. tf

550 ANTIQUE GUNS FOR SALE. CATALOG 25¢. Gil Hebard Enterprises, Box 487F, Knoxville, Illinois. 5-47

CASWELL TARGET CARRIERS GIVE THE shooter every possible point because they hold the target steady and require no exertion to operate. Fully equipped with speedy ball-bearing pulley wheels and target holders for every type of indoor paper rifle or pistol targets. Government priority not required. Caswell Target Carriers, Anoka, Minnesota. tf

REVOLVERS, MINERALS, STAMPS, COINS, glass, Indian relics, catalog 5¢. Cowboy Lemley, Las Cruces, New Mexico. tf

INVENTORS: SOUND, PRACTICAL FISHING, hunting or other sports inventions, patented or unpatented, are urgently needed by sporting-goods manufacturers who have requested our assistance in locating marketable new products. Complete information free. Institute of American Inventors, Dept. 131, 1926 Eye St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. tf

SPERM OIL SHIPPED ANYWHERE IN U. S. Postpaid $1.00 pint, $5.00 gallon. Pend Oreille Sport Shop, Box 168, Sandpoint, Idaho. 6-47

NEW GUNS! GET ONE BY TRADING IN YOUR old rifle, shotgun or handgun. We pay more, sell for less! Write today describing what you want and what you have to trade or sell for cash. Send 25¢ (refunded with first order) for New Spring catalog featuring all available new fishing tackle, camping supplies, golf clubs, new and used guns, etc. Klein's Sporting Goods, 229 CTE West Washington, Chicago 6.

PRICE LIST OF MODERN GUNS AND AMMUnition for stamp. Robert Pease, Washington Street, Meadville, Penna. 6-47

LOADING TOOLS, BULLETS, POWDERS, PRICES on application. G. D. Hoover, 2227 Inyo Street, Fresno, California. 6-47

The Cost goes down!

When the RIFLEMAN's circulation was 50,000 the classified advertising rate was 10¢ per word—or 1¢ per word for every 5,000 copies.

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Now that the classified advertising rate is 20¢ per word for over 200,000 circulation the actual cost is ½¢ per word for every 5,000 member-readers.

In *no other way* can you reach so many active buyers of shooting equipment at such a low cost as you can thru the "Arms Chest."

For the July issue your "copy" instructions must reach us not later than June 1st—see above for full instructions.

FOR THE SHOOTER BY A SHOOTER

FREELAND DELUXE OFFSET TRIPOD.. $9.50
12" extensions... 1.00
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FREELAND FINE SHOOTING MATS $12.50 & 17.50

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VAVER FRONT SIGHTS 7.50
VAVER REAR SIGHTS 20.00
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G&H CLEAR VISION FRONT SIGHT 7.50

FREELAND SLING KEEPER $1.00
TRIGGER SHOES, mention gun .. 2.00
SKEET CAPS, tan & red 1.75
MONTE CARLO CHEEK PADS.. 4.00

FECKER RIFLE SCOPES..... $70 to $98.50

UNERTL TUBE SIGHT .. 24.00

LYMAN ALASKAN 60.00

REDFIELD MOUNTS,.....$10.75, 12.75, 14.75
G & H MOUNTS 25.00
UNERTL RIFLE SCOPES, up from..... 58.00
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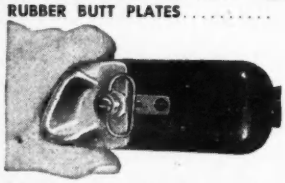
MOSSBERG SPOTSHOT 22.30

RIFLE RUBBER BUTT PLATES..... 2.00



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Everything for the target shooter, hunter and sportsman
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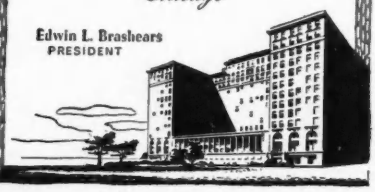

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Oil your Gun *with* 3-IN-ONE

When thoroughly cleaned, leave a thin film of Light Weight 3-IN-ONE on all parts and you're ready for the next shoot.

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5807 M St., Hillside Washington 19, D. C.

9MM. FLOBERT SHORT BALL RIFLE CARtridges, rim fire, $3.00 per 100. .45 automatic pistol cartridges, late issue, $7.00 per 100 146 grain. 30-06 F. A. Arsenal, 1935 cartridges, full patch, $7.50 per 100. 30-06 Winchester, pointed, full patch, staynless, non-mercuric, cartridges, $10.00 per 100. 303 British metal point Winchester cartridges late issue, $10.00 per 100. .38 special 158 grain, factory load, $5.00 per 100. .38 Special, factory load 146 grain wadcutters, $4.50 per 100. .32 caliber long rim fire Kleanbore rifle cartridges, $3.50 per 100. .32 short rim fire Kleanbore rifle cartridges, $3.00 per 100. .25 Stevens rim fire Kleanbore rifle cartridges, $3.00 per 100. .22 caliber automatic rifle cartridges, Kleanbore, for model 03 Winchester, $9.50 per carton of 500. .22 long rifle super match #2, $6.50 per carton of 500. .22 W.R.F. rim fire cartridges, Kleanbore, $9.50 per carton of 500. 30-40 Krag soft point rifle cartridges, $12.50 per 100. 30-40 Krag blank cartridges, $11.50 per 100. 10 ga. blank shot gun shells, $9.00 per 100. All ammunition available for immediate shipment. 50¢ extra charge for all shipments of ammunition as same must be packed in wood container. Interstate Commerce regulation. Forward money order. No C.O.D. shipments. Public Sport Shops, Dept. R75, 13 So. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

SPECIAL GUNSMITH SCREW DRIVERS, SET OF 9 spring-steel drivers 1/8 x 2" to 5/16 x 10" blades. Guaranteed not to chip, gun grip handles. Shipped to any member on approval, $4.50 postpaid. E. C. Grace, Elk Rapids, Michigan. tf

.45-70-500 SMOKELESS CARTRIDGES, $1.90 PER box, $9.00 per 100. Headless shell extractor for the .45 caliber Springfield rifle and carbine, 75¢ each. Rubber slipon recoil pads 90¢ each. Dept. R., Bolin's Gun Shop, 9 Grand St., South Amboy, N. J. tf

ELECTRIC PENCIL: WRITES, ENGRAVES ALL metals $1.00 postpaid. Beyer Mfg., 229-Z Dixson Blvd., Uniontown, Penna. 12-47

CANADA'S LARGEST GUN LIST OFFERING singles, doubles, over and under, combination guns, 25¢ in coin. Modern Gun Shop, 3006 Danforth Ave., Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 9-47

COLT DRAGOONS, COLT 1855 REVOLVING rifles, flintlock Kentucky and squirrel rifles, list 10¢ stamps. E. C. Ward, 604 North Verdugo Road, Glendale, California. 7-47

$1.00 DELIVERS HANDSOME SOLID BRASS rifle rod outfit, postpaid, includes patch tip, one finest quality phosphor bronze brush, one soft bristle, state caliber desired, .410 also, same except two piece jointed rod, canvas kit, $1.25. Woodford Mfg. Co., Lyndhurst, Ohio. tf

ALWAYS A GOOD STOCK OF COLLECTORS arms and visitors always welcome. House of Guns, 34 Alpine Place, Kearny, N. J. tf

BROOKLYN SPORTSMEN SHOP AT THE GOODwear Sporting Goods Co., complete stock of guns & accessories, fishing tackle, archery, etc. 177 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. 5-47

MODEL 70, .300 MAGNUM, ALASKAN SCOPE, Stith mount, recoil pad, 55 rounds, used one season, excellent first check for $225.00. Charles B. Pike, Rt. #1, Box 90, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

SHOOTING M.L.'S, TARGET, PLAINS, KENtuckies, shotguns, militaries, collectors antiques, reasonable, price list, stamp. Hamilton, 1354 Norwood, Chicago 40, Illinois. 6-47

COLT DRAGOON PISTOLS. THE STORY COLlectors wanted! Second of the Serven-Metzger series, this monograph is packed full of photographs and facts beginning with the Whitneyville-Walker pistols of 1847. Describes all the models, contains much important and entertaining data heretofore unpublished, and pictures many of the finest pistols known. Contains 56 pages, 74 plates, size 8½ x 12. Information given on accessories alone is worth the cost, $3.00 postpaid. Carl Metzger, Publisher, 2305 Canton St., Dallas 1, Texas. 6-47

.44 BELGIUM REVOLVER, PERFECT, COLLECtors item. Valued $250.00, sell $95.00. Lander, Box 283, Highland Park, Illinois.

H&R .22 SPORTSMAN MODEL 999 WITH holster, excellent, $40.00. Curtis McLees, Medford, Wisconsin.

REAL BARGAINS: COMMERCIAL MAUSER D.S.T. 8mm. $65.00, Mauser target .22 S.S. $35.00. 30-06 Mauser custom stock $75.00. 8mm. Mauser, cheekpiece stock, $45.00. Many more, send for list and particulars. Military rifles converted to beautiful sporter with custom cheekpiece stock, blued, $35.00. G. William Depfer, 2004 Oakington St., Baltimore 11, Maryland.

TERHAAR GUN WORKS
REBARRELING—REMODELING
6425 CROSS AVE., JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

SPECIAL—FACTORY LOADED SHELLS, 9MM. Luger $7.50 per box; .25, .32 and .380 automatics $4.85 per box; also any other size or pistol shells you may want. Custom loaded 8mm. Mauser shells, 31 cal. Jap rifle shells are $6.00 per box. Custom loaded 9mm. Luger $7.00 per box. 25% with order, balance shipped C.O.D. Jack Bockenheuser, 1005 Fondulac, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

SAVAGE 99EG, 250-3000, NEW, PERFECT, 76 cartridges, write for full description, $110.00. H. M. Wolcott, Member, Box 364, Ashtabula, Ohio.

STAR PROGRESSIVE RELOADING TOOL FOR .38 special, extra tool head with dies for .45 auto, excellent, $100.00. 2 electric melting pots, $7.50. New B&M powder measure, $10.00. Edgar R. Stitely, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

MITCHELL PRECISION SHOOTING GLASSES. Finest ever offered. Free from distortion. For additional information see your dealer or write direct. Mitchell Optical Company, Kirkwood 22, Missouri. 5-47

OUR LIST OF MODERN ARMS WILL BE SENT on receipt of three cent stamp. Kimball Arms Company, Woburn, Mass. tf

LOVELL, 44½ ACTION, COMPONENTS 350 rounds, tools, 10X scope, very good, very accurate, $140.00. 10X coat, size 36, never worn, $9.00. 1917 N.S., 350 rounds, very good, $70.00. 4X Fecker, click mounts, excellent, $40.00. Want 8X Lyman, military Mauser pistol. I. B. Kelly, 136 Bon Air St., Jackson, Mississippi.

ELECTRIC BLUING ELEMENTS, 5000 WATT, 220 volt, 38" tubular emersion type heating elements for your bluing tanks. Clean, efficient, save space, and economical. Richard J. Watt, 440 So. 96th, Tacoma 4, Washington.

COLT ACE, .22 PERFECT, $85.00. WARREN Blackney, 622 Sheridan, Saginaw, Michigan.

NEW AND USED SHOTGUNS AND RIFLES stamp for price list. H. E. Roehrs, Box 45, Closter, N. J.

WINCHESTER 57, .22 LONG RIFLE, LYMAN 55 receiver sight, sling, condition very good, very accurate, $35.00. W. H. Dungan, Lakeport, California.

NEW PRISM BINOCULARS. IDEAL FOR HUNTing, complete with leather case, 8 x 25 $45.00; 8 x 30 $49.50; plus fed tax. New H&R Sportsman .22 caliber target pistol, reg. price $49.95, we sell for $44.95. Brand new lightweight fishing boots, prewar quality, olive drab, ladies and mens sizes $8.75. Perrine Free stripping automatic reals, #30 (reg. price $8.00) our special price $7.20; #80 (reg. price $9.75) our special price $8.75. Write for FREE 1947 Fishing & Hunting catalog. Gart Bros. Sporting Goods Co., 1643 Larimer Street, Denver 2, Colorado. 6-47

SERVICEABLE, USED, SINGLE ACTION COLTS parts, hammer $2.50; trigger $1.25; ejector head $1.25; hand with spring $1.50; trigger guard $2.50; screws 25¢ each. 20 shot magazine for 30-06 Springfield $6.25. .22 (short) supplemental chambers, M1903 Springfield $1.25 each, 6 for $6.25. B. K. Wingate, 470 Parkway, Trenton, N. J. 6-47

10 GAUGE, NEW PRIMED EMPTY SHELLS cases, 2 9/16", $3.00 per 100. #57 Remington shotgun shell primers, $7.50 per 1000. Web rifle slings, used, U. S. Army good condition, 49¢ each. U. S. Government prismatic compass, excellent condition with leather case, $5.95. Gun racks by Stevens, walnut finished for three guns, $4.95 each. The Pequet, walnut finished, self leveling gun rack for four guns, $5.95 each. Forward money order. No C.O.D. shipments. Public Sport Shops, Dept. R75, 13 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN OCTOBER 1935 TO date complete, excellent $25.00 F.O.B. John E. Stephenson, 232 Hillside, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

BUILD YOURSELF A CAPLOCK SPORTER. You need only an old 45-70 Springfield, one of our new muzzle-loading barrels, and a few accessories. Descriptive details and list on request. (Stamp, please.) James Serven, Santa Ana, California. tf

FISHERMEN—WORRY ABOUT SNAGS? PROtect your casting lures and trolling gear. Free folder. Hansen Mfg. Co., Dept. H., Box 272, Denver, Colorado.

YES, MEN'S SHOES IN SIZES 11½ TO 16. Widths AA to EEE. Finest quality, moderate price. Free circulars. Write Kingsize 138, Brockton, Mass.

GAS CHECKS

.22, .25, .270, .30, .32, 8m/m—$1.75 per M.

Discounts to dealers

Midwestern Arms & Toolworks 1930 S. Racine Ave. Chicago 8, Ill.

NEW Samworth Books on Firearms

MODERN AMERICAN PISTOLS & REVOLVERS

By A. C. Gould [*A Reprint; First Published 1887*]

As the shooter's Book of the Month for May, we offer one of the three monuments which Arthur C. Gould left behind him. (The other two? you ask!—*Modern American Rifles* . . . and the present *American Rifleman* magazine.)

Modern American Pistols and Revolvers was first run as a serial in the old magazine, *The Rifle*, beginning in the June, 1887, issue. A few years later, it appeared in book form, being greatly enlarged when a second edition was published.

PRICE $3.50 Delivered

For a generation, this Gould treatise on the American handgun was the standard and only existing work. It is a most interesting volume, replete with technical and practical notes on all of the various makes and models; at this time there were about a dozen firms making target and hunting pistols and revolvers. Competitive shooting was a popular sport and Ira Paine, W. W. Bennett, Annie Oakley and such crack shots were all in the public eye.

Gould wrote at great length on such shooters, their weapons and their style and opinions. We have reprinted this book in deluxe form and it should be in the library of every shooter.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

MODERN AMERICAN RIFLES [*A Reprint; First Published 1890*]

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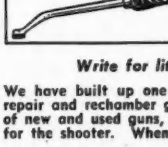

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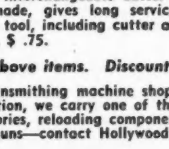

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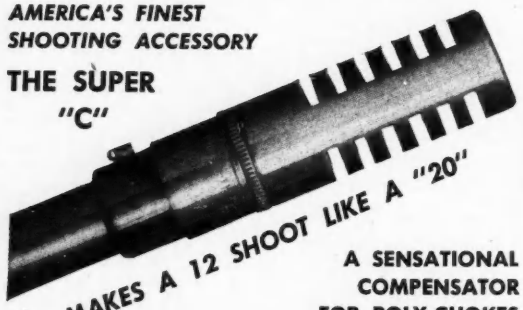

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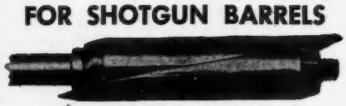

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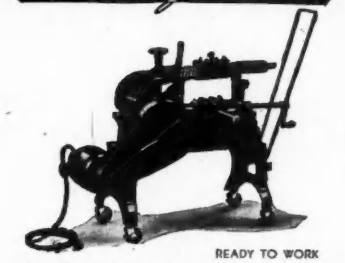

READY TO WORK

Capacity 4" x 4"—Especially designed for use in smaller machine and gunsmith shops. Complete with motor $129.00

RUST • REMOVER •

For over a year we have been selling this vastly superior rust remover which ACTUALLY removes rust, welding scale, old blue, etc. Used COLD. One quart of rust remover makes 2 quarts of solution . . . mix 50-50 with soft water.

Per Quart $2.00

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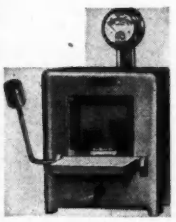

Model GTP—Interior 4" x 3¾" x 3¾". May be operated continuously up to 1500° F. and intermittently to 1850° F. Embedded heating element. Power consumption 1.2 kw. Cast aluminum body. Weight 15 pounds. For 115V A.C. Price ..... $57.50 Also available for 230V and D.C.

Bluing Tanks

Black Iron—Welded Seams

6" wide, 6" deep, 36" to 38" long	$4.00
6" wide, 6" deep, 14" long	2.00

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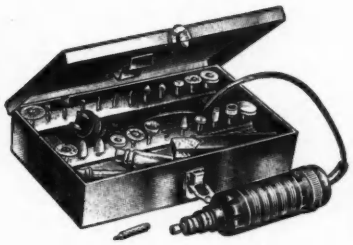
The Very Best Trued Wheels

6" soft, med., hard	$4.00
8" x 1" x ½" soft	5.00
8" x 1" x ½" med.	6.00



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The one tool written up in "The Dope Bag" more times than any tool applicable to the gunsmith. Complete with large assortment of points.. $27.50

(Prepaid)

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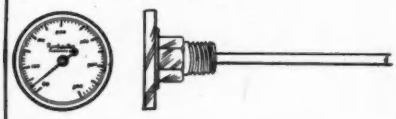
Polish-O-Ray is greaseless, fast cutting without gouging, is applied to the wheel while in motion. Used by practically ALL the leading gunsmiths. Available in grits #140 (coarse); #240 (medium); #400 (fine); #500 (very fine) and packaged in two-pound tubes at $1.00 . . . for mirror finish, #555 in three-pound cakes..... $1.50

Fire Arms Blue Print Service

Starting this month we will be able to furnish blueprints of American and foreign made rifles and pistols for 50¢ apiece. Order blueprints for whatever gun you wish. There may be a slight delay on the odd ones but the service will be reasonably good. . . . But what a help that will be on some of those little known ones!

Rochester Built



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Have you ordered your copy for a dollar? (Refunded on first purchase.) Some of the things to be listed:

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- **Sheldon Lathes, Milling Machines**
- **Norton and Carborundum Abrasives**
- **Marcottee Key Machines**
- **Checkering—Engraving Files**
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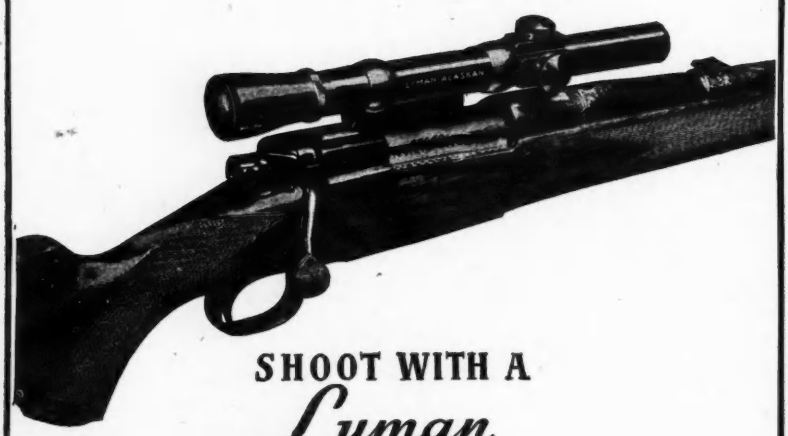

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WINCHESTER 52 H.B. #44549B, THOMAS TRIGger, Bishop stock, Lyman Super 10X, Marble Goss rear, Vaver front, 12 apertures, 2 extra sets cross hairs, Parker cleaning rod, sling, arm band, coat, glove, gun case, kit box, shooting block, 500 rounds shells. All excellent to perfect. Outfit complete $260.00. No checks. Ed Reganold, 367 Wilbur Avenue, Yuba City, California.

ENFIELD SPORTER 1917, 30-06 WINCHESTER made, 26" barrel, very good, Redfield front and rear sights. Lyman 438 Field scope and mounted bases, $95.00. Ballard Set-Trigger Schuetzen octagon Pope barrel, 25-21, good, 200 cases $60.00. William Ziegler, 515 Main St., Hackensack, N. J.

PRIMERS: $5.25 PER 1000 IN LOTS OF 3000 OR more. Factory fresh Remington 1½-2¼-6½-9½. John Gunder, 550 Cloverhurst Ave., Athens, Georgia.

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9MM. FLOBERT, REM. UMC, BALL, 100 FOR $1.00; 45-70-500 Smokeless, Rem-UMC, box 20, $1.75, 100 for $8.25; 45-70-500 Black powder, Frankford Arsenal, copper case, box 20, $2.75; 100 for $12.50; .38 Long Colt, lead, Frankford Arsenal, box 20, 60¢ in lots of 100; 41 Swiss, box 20, $2.50; .41 Short R. F. box 50, $2.00. Kindly send money orders. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s. Philip Jay Medicus, 18 Fletcher St., New York 7, N. Y.

WINCHESTER 52 H.B. LEAF APERTURE REAR, globe front with inserts, leather sling, beautiful oil finish Marksman stock, excellent in and out, $110.00. J. W. McElliott, Masonville, Iowa.

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SMITH & WESSON TARGET OUTDOORSMAN, perfect, $70.00. Radom, new, $30.00. Walther PP .32, excellent, $30.00. Colt Ace, good, $45.00. New model Luger parts no slide, frame or barrels. Stamp for list. D. J. Hettrick, 32 Linden Ave., Buffalo, N. Y.

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HAMMERLUND SUPER PRO SP-400X, USED 72 hours, perfect, $325.00 C.O.D. Colt Government model 1911 .45 ACP, perfect, with box of shells $60.00. Colt .45 NS model with 4" barrel, perfect with box of shells, $65.00. New S&W .22-32 Kit gun $63.00. New S&W HD .38 with 4" barrel, perfect, $65.00. Winchester 30-30, perfect, with two boxes of shells, $65.00 new. Carl L. Horton, 16 Auburn Place, Athol, Massachusetts.

EXCELLENT W.H.S.W., 2R, M.W. SEDGLEY barrel, white line pad and tenite tip, beautifully checkered forend and grip; 29S in Streamline mounts, Fecker blocks, sling, complete Pacific tool, factory fitted dies, Pacific scale, cases, 450 primers, powder bullets, 50 gr. double mould, sheepskin case, cartridge belt, $150.00. G. R. Davis, Mt. Sterling, Illinois.

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The most efficient shell for its size ever developed; 25% more velocity, flatter shooting, harder hitting. Your Hornet rechambered $5.00; magazine altered $5.00. Also rechambering 2-R's and Lovells to K-Lovell $5.00.

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BRAND NEW DOUBLE ARCTIC ARMY SLEEPING BAG $29.95
Prepaid

Consists of two complete new sleeping bags. They can be used singly in moderate temperatures or may be combined in sub-zero weather. The outer bag is 34 x 76 with a full-length zipper. The inner bag is 32 x 82 with a 40" zipper. Both bags insulated with 40% down and 60% feathers. Complete with carrying case.

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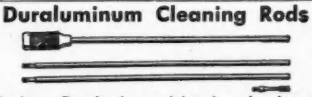

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Each .....Prepaid **$3.54**

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Battery illuminated 5X magnifier. List is $9.35. For fine print, stamps, etc. Prepaid **$3.95**

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Consists of 2-piece offset handle spring steel rod, level wind reel, 50-yd. line, casting plug, snelled hooks, sinkers, spoon, & float. Prepaid..... **$4.89**

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22 Hornet S.P. or Mush. (50) box ..	3.50	35 Rem. Rimless—200 gr. S.P., box	2.30
218 Bee High Speed Mush. (50) box	3.15	41 Ital. Vetterli C.F. (20) box	3.00
32 S&W Long C.F. (lead) (50) box	1.95	41 Swiss Rimfire—lead, box	2.40
357 S&W Magnum (50) box	3.25	40/65 Win. C.F., S.P., box.....	2.60
38 Short or Long Colt (50) box	2.30	12 Ga. Shells High Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.95
38 S&W Short (50) box	2.25	12 Ga. Shells Stand. Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.65
38 S&W Special—158 gr. (50) box	2.40	16 Ga. Shells High Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.85
38 S&W Spec. Wad Cutter (50) box	2.45	16 Ga. Shells Stand. Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.45
41 Long Colt C.F. (50) box.....	2.60	20 Ga. Shells High Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.75
45 Colt D.A. or S.A. (50) box	3.10	20 Ga. Shells Stand. Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.40
45 Colt Auto. M.P. (50) box	3.55	28 Ga. Shells High Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.75
22 Savage Hi-Power, SP, box	1.95	410 Ga. Shells High Velocity Ass't Shot, box	1.55
25/35 Win. 117 gr. S.P., box	1.90		
270 Win. 150 gr. S.P., box	2.60		
300 Savage—150 or 180 gr., box....	2.50		
375 H & H Magnum 235 gr., box ...	3.55		
6.5 Rim Dutch Hembrug M.P., box	5.00		
303 British—174 gr. M.P., box	1.75		
30/06 Gov't. 150 gr. M.P.F.B., box	1.40		
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900,000 Cartridges 22 Long Rifle, Standard or High Speed, per 10,000; Case	$90.00
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Winchester Model 61, Oct. 22 short	$46.55
Winchester Model 62, Rd. 22 short	34.75
Winchester Model 75, Target without sights	45.05
Winchester Model 94, Carbine 30/30	56.50
Remington Model 121, 22 cal., Pump	44.50
Remington Model 141, 35 cal., Pump	95.60
Stevens Model 22, 410 O & U	28.40
Mossberg Model 46M, De Luxe Tubular, 22 cal.	27.95
Mossberg Model 46B, Tubular 30 Shot, 22 cal.	$23.90
Win. Mod. 12, Pump, 12 or 20 Ga.	78.50
Rem. Mod. 31, Pump, 12 or 20 Ga.	78.50
Ithaca Model 37, Pump gun, 12 ga.	78.50
Rem. Auto. 3 or 5 shot, 12, 16, 20 Ga.	94.00
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$10.00 allowance on your old 12 gauge auto. barrel, any length, any condition, even bursted barrels. Ship your barrel only by parcel post in trade on any of the following barrels.

781 only—Brand New Remington barrels, 12 gauge, 26", choice of Imp. Cylinder choke or full choke, to fit the Remington Model 11A, 5 shot or Sportsman, 3 shot. Also can be fitted to the American made Browning. The regular factory price on this barrel is $35.80. However, our price is **$28.50** and with our special offer of $10.00 allowance on your old barrel, the net cost to you is $18.50.

168 only—Brand New Remington barrels, 12 gauge, fitted with Cutts Compensator and Modified choke tube, all packed in heavy Cosmolene and waterproof paper, same as above barrels. The regular factory price is $57.80, our price is **$44.50** and with our $10.00 allowance on your old barrel, your cost is only $34.50.

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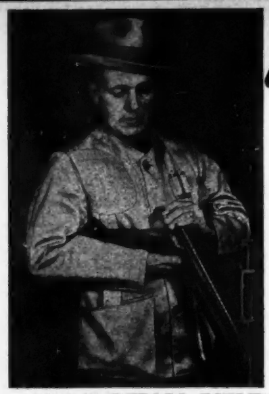

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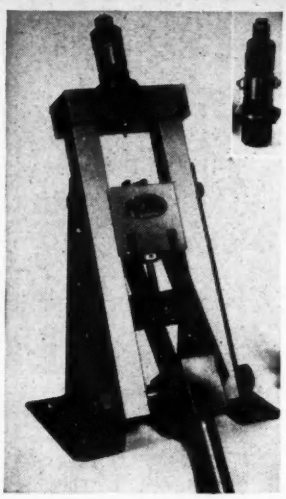

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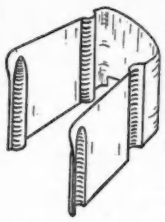

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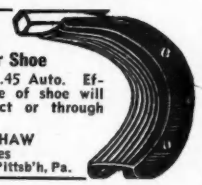

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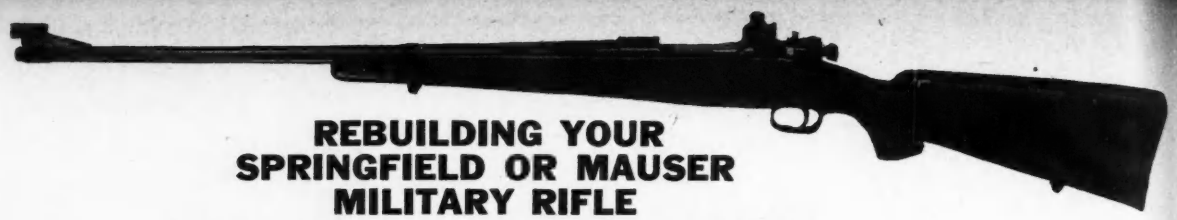

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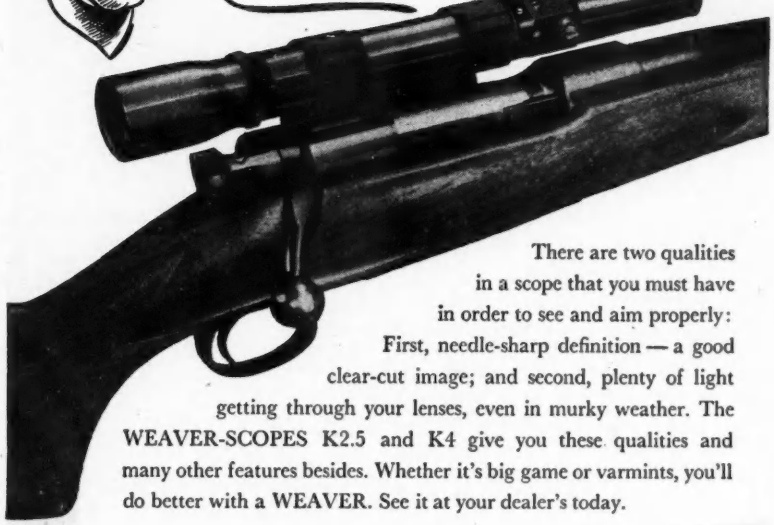

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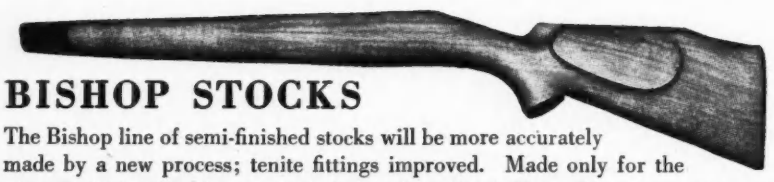

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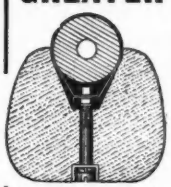

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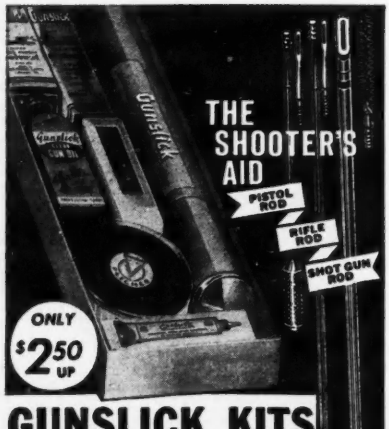

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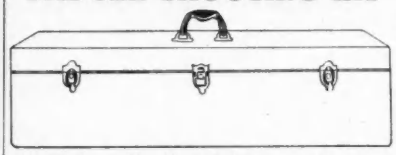

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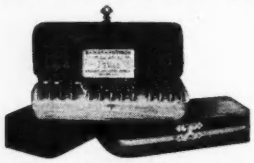

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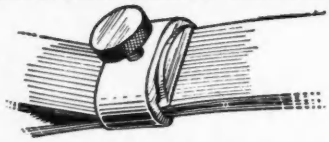

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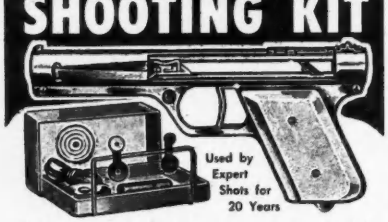

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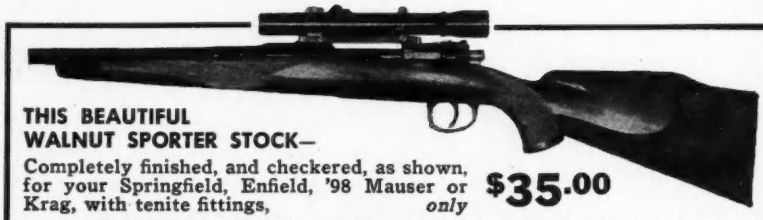

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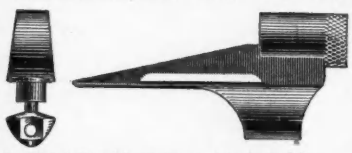

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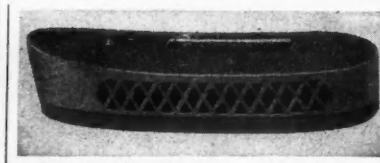

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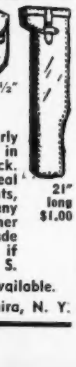

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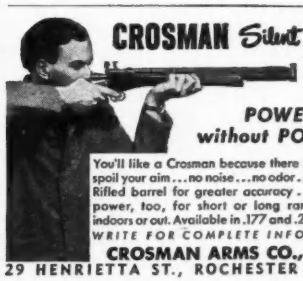

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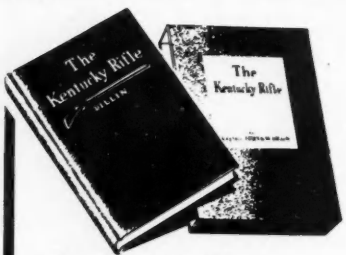

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BOOK REVIEWS

MANNLICHER RIFLES AND PISTOLS, By W. H. B. Smith.

This interesting book of 239 pages covers forty weapons wholly or partly of Mannlicher design made during the twenty-year period from 1880 to 1900. The book is built around a series of 119 exceptionally clear line drawings by one Konrad Von Kromar, who seems to have worked closely with Von Mannlicher in the preparation of these drawings for an exhibit of Mannlicher arms in the Paris Exposition of 1900.

The reader of this book will soon sense the fact that Ferdinand Ritter Von Mannlicher was a dreamer of dreams, some of which turned out to be nightmares when translated into wood and metal. Many of them were so obviously unsuited for service that we find ourselves unable to feel either surprise or regret when Smith lays them to rest with his oft-repeated obituary: "This rifle was never manufactured in quantity."

In designing hand-operated rifles Von Mannlicher was more successful than he was with his pistols and his self-loading shoulder weapons. Well-known military rifles of Mannlicher design that have been in use for years include the Model 93 Roumanian rifle, the Austrian Model 95, the Dutch Model 95 and others.

As Von Mannlicher tried many different principles of operation in his self-loading arms, it is not surprising that several mechanical motions resembling those he used have been incorporated in other guns during the forty-four years since his death.

Smith invites attention to the fact that one Mannlicher model has a crooked operating rod, as does also the Garand M1. However, a look at the drawing of this Mannlicher will show that it resembles the Garand about as much as a jack rabbit resembles a giraffe. Both jack rabbit and giraffe have crooked hind legs, but there the resemblance ends.

Likewise Smith professes to see the beginnings of the operating system of the M1 Carbine with its impact-type piston of 1/10-inch stroke in a Mannlicher gun which has a spring-returned gas piston that moves ten times as far and operates the bolt directly instead of slamming back an operating slide to do the work, as does the Carbine. To me this gun resembles the Carbine even less than the jack rabbit does the giraffe.

Be that as it may, Smith has done a fine piece of work in collecting these very clear drawings of the forty Mannlicher models and in supplying the descriptive text which makes the mechanical principles and method of operation of each readily understandable. No arms designer or student of gun mechanisms can afford to be without Smith's book.—J. S. H.

(Military Service Publishing Company, Harrisburg, Pa., 239 pages, illustrated, $5.00. Available through the NRA Book Service.)

OUR RIFLES, By Charles Winthrop Sawyer.

Like those of many a pioneer researcher, the firearms books of C. W. Sawyer, though often discredited in the light of recent discoveries, still stand as important milestones in the study of ancient arms. In spite of the recent flood of books on the subject, there is yet much which can be found only in the Sawyer's "Firearms in American History" series. Now, to meet a standing demand among gun collectors, *Our Rifles*, which covers United States firearms from 1800 to the date of original publication, 1921, has been reprinted. Unfortunately, economy instead of quality seems to have governed the choice of paper and the reproduction method. The illustrations, originally half tones, are in most cases only smudgy silhouettes, and the whole job reflects haste and complete disregard for readability. If a collector needs a copy badly enough, this reprint will justify its cost. Otherwise, he would be better off to wait until one of the original edition turns up and pay the difference.—J. S.

(Williams Book Store, Boston, Mass. 412 pages, illustrated, $5.00. Available through the NRA Book Service.)

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THE WHITNEY FIREARMS, By Claude E. Fuller.

In his study of Eli Whitney's firearms, Claude Fuller has selected the arms manufacturer perhaps most closely associated with the rise of U. S. manufacturing. It was Whitney, of course, who invented the cotton gin, which revolutionized Southern economy. More important, it was Whitney who made practical the system of interchangeable parts—that uniquely American manufacturing concept that revolutionized the economy of a continent.

The book itself is a typical Fuller product, crammed with almost too much information. Not only has he covered the Whitney story, period by period, contract by contract, and model by model, but his researches include the early contract system of U. S. arms manufacture, and the histories of our other "so-called private armories—Simeon North, Lemuel Pomeroy, Nathan Starr, Asa Waters, and Henry Deringer." With his previous books, now unfortunately out of print *(The Breechloader in the Service; Springfield Shoulder Arms)*, Fuller has almost covered the story of United States military arms.

In detailing the story of Sam Colt's relationship with Whitney, which led to the production of the famed Walker-Colt, Fuller has perhaps overextended his "researches" and run aground in crediting the dubious transitional pieces which have come to be labeled as the "Colt-Walker-Collins" revolvers. These three pistols, presumably bridging the gap between the folding-trigger models made by Colt at Paterson and the big Walker revolvers made for him by Whitney in 1847, are open to the gravest suspicion. Supposedly embodying the preliminary suggestions of Captain Walker of the Texas Rangers, and one Terry Collins, they present features unlike those of any known Paterson pieces. Paterson arms were made with an odd number of rifling grooves; two of these "Collins-Walkers" have grooves even in number. It is extremely unlikely that Colt would have altered his entire Paterson production setup in order to change the rifling characteristics of two experimental revolvers. Similarly, Paterson products invariably have distinctive multiple grooves in the periphery of the cylinders; these cylinders are smooth. One of the three, the "Colt-Walker-Collins improvement of 1840," is marked "Address Col. Colt—London." Colt received his honorary commission as colonel some time between January and June of 1851. Obviously, no Colt product would have been so marked prior to that year. Finally, no researcher other than the author of the monograph which originally described these "unique" Colt revolvers seems to have the slightest idea of who Terry Collins was or how he got into the picture.

Leaving aside this one small element of the book, Fuller's monograph is a thorough, well-documented and workable account of the weapons produced by one of America's pioneer industrialists.—J. S.

(Standard Publications, Inc., Huntington, W. Va., 1946. 335 pages, illustrated, index, $7.00. Available through NRA Book Service.)

THE GUN COLLECTOR'S HANDBOOK OF VALUES, By Charles E. Chapel.

Is it valuable? Almost invariably, that's the first question asked by the owner of an old firearm. Despite some obvious but not too important shortcomings, Chapel's handbook of values is still the one worth-while reference for dealer and collector alike on this all-important question of value and relative scarcity. Now it is reissued in an enlarged, more adequately illustrated edition.

Generally, this second edition is a much better job than the first. Except for a few rather limited and admittedly difficult groups of arms (among them Pennsylvania and New England rifles and Committee of Safety muskets) which he dismisses with the barest attempt at appraisal, this second edition includes average prices and descriptions of just about every arm of interest to collectors and dealers in antique arms. The prices Chapel quotes, unlike those prevailing in postage stamp catalogues, appear to be fair averages of "asking" prices on today's market, and are close to actual values.

The chapter devoted to "other foreign arms," which includes all European arms but English and French, is fragmentary and, in many cases, misleading. For instance, one hesitates to take seriously an author who describes a "snaphance" as a weapon which has a pan cover which opens *as the hammer is cocked.* But essentially the book is a sound job for the collector of American arms.—J. S.

(Coward-McCann, Inc., New York, 412 pages, illustrated, $6.00. Available through the NRA Book Service.)

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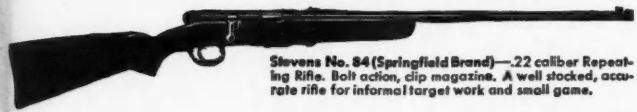

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